

Hafa Adai!

No person or media beyond this point

DFS Saipan to remain closed. **PAGE 2**

Cop pleads guilty to reckless driving, gets 3-day house arrest. **PAGE 3**

Saipan Tribune

75¢

Tensions erupt as DPS chief grilled on nepotism, furloughs

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IVA MAURIN
The Department of Public Safety team, led by Commissioner Robert Guerrero, at the budget hearing yesterday in the House chamber on Capital Hill.

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

It was a heated discussion at yesterday's budget hearing, with Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero raising his voice multiple times toward Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan), following the discussion on the budget for the Department of Public Safety. **See TENSIONS on Page 4**

3 more positive COVID-19 cases

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

In as little as four days, three more passengers from the July 9 flight have been confirmed positive for COVID-19 after getting tested on their fifth day after arriving last July 14, bringing the CNMI's total cases to 36.

According to Esther Muna, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer,

the new cases are all asymptomatic. Muna added that they have been at Kanoa Resort since they arrived.

A statement by the COVID-19 Task Force said that the three passengers will remain safely isolated at Kanoa Resort. Additionally, they will

See 3 MORE on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, July 15, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	312	1	313
Recovered	202	11	213
Active	94	1	95
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	17,961		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	33	3	36
Active	3	3	6
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	10,697**		

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

No new date to reopen CNMI to int'l flights

» **Skymark extends suspension of Saipan-Narita flights until Oct. 24, 2020**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Yesterday's target date to reopen the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport to international flights came and went and no new target date has yet to be determined, according to Commonwealth

See 3 FLIGHTS on Page 4



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

A file photo of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, where the Commonwealth Ports Authority is putting together an action plan in preparation for yesterday's supposed target date of reopening the CNMI to international flights.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

\$1.38M seized from IPI ordered released to contractor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the

NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona directed yesterday the court's clerk to release Imperial Pacific In-

ternational (CNMI) LLC's \$1,383,869 received from Bank of Saipan to IPI's for-

See \$1.38M on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Mary's Beauty Shop 1 opened its doors 12 years ago knowing that good grooming and beauty routines play an important part in every person's life.

PAGE 11



NATION

The Trump administration rescinded a rule that would have required international students to transfer or leave the country if their schools held classes entirely online.

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE

The studio is largely empty, but Jimmy Fallon is out of his home and back to the "Tonight" show stage.

PAGE 15



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Local

DFS Saipan to remain closed

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

While businesses in the CNMI are cautiously opening one by one, T Galleria by Duty Free Saipan Ltd. in Garapan remains closed since March. Due to the COVID-19 pan-

demic, the tourism industry around the world, including the CNMI, has grounded to a halt and DFS going back in business on Saipan is not an option in the foreseeable future.

"The COVID-19 pandemic continues to take a heavy toll

on people and businesses around the world. On Saipan, we closed our stores in late March to protect the health of our employees and customers. We remain attentive to the lifting of restrictions by our government, and will assess when and how to open our stores de-

pending on the business outlook," said DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce

Duty Free thrives in the tourism industry as one of their draws to travelers is the tax exemption from purchase of goods in any of the DFS shops. "Our business caters to traveling customers, and so we need to monitor both the health environment in each of our locations as well as the

number of travelers returning to our stores before we decide to open... Some of our locations have reopened as visitor arrivals have picked up," Aldan-Pierce added.

Immediate plans include shipping some of DFS Saipan's inventory to Guam, non-renewal of their CW-1 workers, and keeping Hafa Adai Roasting Company that opened in February closed until T-Galleria re-open its doors.

For most employees,

Aldan-Pierce said that they introduced new working arrangements. "This includes voluntary unpaid leave and voluntary adjusted hours to give employees more flexibility in balancing work and home responsibilities... DFS is proud of our long history on Saipan and our intention is to reopen when arrivals from our markets pick up."

"We sincerely ask for our community's understanding as we have had to take this tough but necessary action. We look forward to serving our customers again when the environment is more positive, and until then we hope everyone on Saipan stays healthy and safe," Aldan-Pierce added.



Aldan-Pierce

Beyond unfair IPI forcing us to pay housing rent, CUC charges—IPI staff

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A furloughed employee of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC said yesterday that IPI management has notified employees that they now have to pay for their housing and utilities.

Richie Cunningham said he finds it "beyond unfair" that IPI is forcing them to pay rent and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. utility charges considering that many of them are being furloughed and are getting zero money.

Cunningham said it's even more hard for IPI's CW workers because they are not eligible for Pandemic Unemploy-

ment Assistance.

"IPI should not do this to the workers who are from different countries," he said.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was waiting for comments from IPI.

Cunningham said he saw the two letters posted on the doors of their housing accommodations two weeks ago.

Cunningham said the letters stated that it came from the IPI property management but they are unsigned.

A copy of one letter addressed to Vestcor Village tenants stated that the property will be converted into rental properties effective Aug. 1, 2020.

The letter says the rent will

be \$600 per month and the tenants will be responsible for their own utilities.

The other letter addressed to tenants stated that IPI will no longer pay for CUC charges for the workers' units effective July 1, 2010.

The letter says the tenants will be responsible for the water/sewer/electricity usage for their unit going forward.

Cunningham, who is from Hawaii, said he was furloughed two to three weeks ago.

He said he has been working with IPI for three and a half years now and has been on Saipan for almost two years (More than a year working from Hawaii).

USCIS to conduct a virtual information session

Officers from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will present a Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands free 90-minute virtual information session Wednesday, July 29. Participants will learn about the interim final rule and how the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018 is being implemented. USCIS staff will provide information on the mandatory use of E-Verify, submission of the semi-annual report, long-term workers, the temporary departure requirement and other related topics.

This information session can be attended by webinar or teleconference, and is open to all. For those joining the webinar, it's best to use the Chrome or Firefox web browsers for the best viewing. Please join 10 minutes prior to the start time.

Those who wish to ask questions can submit them

by emailing Hawaii.CommunityRelations@uscis.dhs.gov by July 15. USCIS won't be able to answer case-specific questions. Media members should refer their questions to Ms. Rummery, using the contact information below. Those who need disability accommodations should write to the email address above by Friday, July 24.

WHAT: USCIS information session

WHEN: Wednesday, July 29, 9 a.m.

HOW: To join the training session, go to:

<https://uscis.webex.com/uscis/k2/j.php?MTID=tc1b641c4459c776613cda671cbe74bb6>

Enter participant's name and email address.

Enter the session password: CNMIOutre@ch0728

Click "Join Now"

Follow the instructions that appear on the screen.

To join the session by

phone only:

Call the number below and enter the access code.

U.S. Toll number: +1-415-527-5035 Access code: 199 912 1506

To participate by Webex from outside the CNMI, go to: <https://uscis.webex.com/uscis/globalcallin.php?MTID=t0c8e4acd9a5e622cfe6c4f34eb36cf16>

For help, please contact Tarisa Hughes at tarisa.k.hughes2@uscis.dhs.gov or call 1-808-687-6314

CALL: Sharon Rummery, USCIS public affairs officer Office: 415-248-8873; cell: 415-987-0191

Sharon.Rummery@uscis.dhs.gov; Twitter: @USCISmediaSF

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Cop pleads guilty to reckless driving, gets 3-day house arrest

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Police officer Dixon Kwon entered yesterday a guilty plea in connection with a car crash on As Gonno Highway in 2017 that resulted in serious injuries to his then-girlfriend passenger, and was slapped with a three-day house arrest sentence.

Kwon signed a plea deal with the government and pleaded guilty to the offense of reckless driving.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo accepted the plea agreement

and Kwon's guilty plea.

Govendo sentenced the 24-year-old police officer to six months' imprisonment, all suspended except for three days to be served as home confinement due to COVID-19.

Kwon was given credit for 12 hours he had served when he was arrested.

Kwon was ordered to pay a \$500 fine, plus a \$25 court fee and \$120 probation fee. He was required to pay the victim, Deedra Santos, restitution in an amount to be determined at a hearing.

The parties agree that the maximum amount of restitu-

tion shall not exceed \$29,278.

Govendo said the Office of Adult Probation shall monitor any determined restitution.

The judge said should insurance cover any of this amount, such amounts paid by insurance shall be credited against the total restitution.

Govendo placed Kwon on two years of probation and required him to perform 100 hours of community work service.

Kwon was ordered to write a letter of apology to the victim. His driver's license was suspended for six months except for employment-related purposes, and for any doctor's appointment or medical emergencies.

According to the factual basis of the plea deal, on July 22, 2017 on Saipan, Kwon operated a motor vehicle "in a willful and wanton manner with disregard for the safety of persons or property."

Assistant attorney general J. Robert Glass Jr. is counsel for the government. Charity Hodson is counsel for Kwon.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Kwon with driving while under the in-



Kwon

fluence of alcohol causing bodily injury, reckless driving causing bodily injury, fleeing the scene of an accident, failure to have liability insurance, and failure to have liability insurance in possession.

For pleading guilty to reckless driving, the government moved to dismiss the remaining charges as part of the plea deal. The judge granted the motion.

Chief prosecutor John Bradley said yesterday that the case was substantially delayed because of ongoing litigation that arose from an internal investigation of Kwon by the Department of Public Safety.

Bradley said after lengthy and repeated court hearings, Govendo found that DPS officers acted in bad faith when they lost files from that internal investigation.

He said that negative finding severely damaged the credibility of evidence related to Kwon's alleged use of alcohol in connection with the criminal case.

Given those difficulties, Bradley said, OAG negotiated a guilty plea to reckless driving.

The chief prosecutor said

the plea agreement is silent as to whether Kwon may continue to work as a police officer.

He said that employment decision is the responsibility of the DPS commissioner.

Bradley said they regret that DPS officers' bad faith misconduct interfered with this investigation and prosecution and hope that DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero will take action against any officers involved in that misconduct.

"Nonetheless, this conviction shows that police officers are not above the law," Bradley said.

Kwon is still employed with DPS.

Last Jan. 8, Govendo denied Kwon's motion to dismiss the case. But the judge ruled that DPS acted in bad faith when police officer Olympio Muna lost the internal investigation case file and police officer Alexander Sakisat discarded the audio records, because the finding's potential exculpatory value was apparent at the time they were lost or destroyed.

However, Govendo said, Kwon can obtain comparable evidence by other reasonably available means.

Exculpatory evidence refers to evidence favorable to the defendant in a criminal case

that tends to exonerate the defendant of guilt.

The judge said to warrant dismissal, lost or destroyed evidence "must be of such a nature that the defendant would be unable to obtain comparable evidence by other reasonably available means."

Police said Kwon was driving his Nissan car on July 22, 2017, when the vehicle ran off the road on As Gonno Highway and hit a tree, causing serious injuries to his passenger, Santos.

When the officers responded to the area, Kwon was reportedly not at the scene, but Santos was there. Kwon was an off-duty Driving Under the Influence (DUI) officer at the time of the accident.

Is big game hunting next for Northern Marianas?

By **IVA MAURIN**
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Torres administration is looking into bringing in high-end tourists in the Marianas by shifting focus to the Northern Islands, the CNMI's last frontier. Included in this vision is the start of big game hunting in Pagan and Alamagan.

Big game hunting is the hunting of large "game" animals, animals for meat, taxidermy, or for recreation, among others. Deer hunting, in particular, is done in South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. In the U.S., it is subject to regulations put up by states and territories.

At Tuesday's media briefing, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres gave a hint of what's to come, emphasizing a definite vision of high-end tourists in the Northern Islands, in Pagan, Alamagan, Agrigan, and Asuncion, in the coming years.

"This is the right timing for us to start promoting up north," the governor said.

"We start having a plan and a station, and start looking at what kind of experience [tourists] can get in Alamagan, what kind of experience can they receive in Pagan, what kind of a lifetime experience in Agrigan, and if they can go to Asuncion, what kind of life can they see there, can they experience. It's a sanctuary island."

Big game hunting is also part of the plan, beginning with the recent introduction of the deer in Pagan.

"That's exactly what we're looking at," Torres said, "We looked at it, we talked to the mayor. The mayor now wants that."

"The people that live in Pagan, they had no objections. They thought it was a great

idea. People that I've talked to, that's been up to the Northern Island, thought that the releasing of deer is an excellent time. That, for us has always been something that should be, to give the islands the opportunity."

Torres also realistically noted that there will not be a flock of high-end tourists coming to the islands soon, and that instead, the current administration is "planting the seed" for high-end fishermen, high-end hunters, and outdoor sports enthusiasts to look into the CNMI and say "I want to go there."

He also said that marketing the Northern Islands would give not just the high-end tourists the ability to see and enjoy the islands, but would also give the ability for locals to go there too more.

"Our people here, it's really a dream to go up north... that is the dream of the Northern Marianas, to go up north... The more accessible [the] transportation, whether it's air or boat, the more people can go up there and enjoy."

"At the end of the day, you want ecotourism, you want high end... That's our last frontier, and the deer is definitely a good start. I hope that in five to 10 years, we have wild deers up there as a big-game hunt. We're trying to work on looking at private owners here, and maybe even Rota, to look at a package. And I'm bringing up more deer to Pagan and even Alamagan."

In marketing the Northern Island, the governor said, he will ensure that the environment is protected at any cost, and at the same time, will create opportunities for the high-end tourism market to start benefiting from up north.

» Torres administration looking into deer hunting in Pagan, Alamagan



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\$1.38M*From Page 1*

mer contractor, Pacific Rim Land Development LLC, from the court's Treasury Registry Fund.

Manglona said to date, IPI has not requested a hearing or filed any request regarding the court's June 9, 2020 writ of execution that ordered the U.S. Marshal Service to seize IPI's money from the Bank of Saipan.

Manglona said that on that same day, June 9, the clerk issued a writ of execution informing IPI that it must demand a prompt hearing to claim any exemptions or assert any other rights to protect its property.

She said the U.S. Marshal Service executed the writ, the Bank of Saipan tendered a check to the court, and the U.S. Treasury completed the processing of those funds.

Manglona, however, denied Pacific Rim's motion for an order authorizing the release of funds held pursuant to writs of execution issued on Pacific American Title Inc. and

Security Title Inc.

The clerk issued those writs last June 15. The clerk issued a second notice to IPI regarding its rights.

To date, Manglona said, IPI has not requested a hearing or filed any other requests regarding these writs.

The judge said Pacific American Title tendered \$100 to the court, however, the U.S. Treasury has not yet completed the processing of these funds.

She said Security Title has not tendered any funds to the court.

Therefore, Manglona said she denies without prejudice Pacific Rim's motion for an order authorizing the release of those funds as premature.

In its motion filed last week, Pacific Rim, through counsel Colin M. Thompson, disclosed that based on his information, the money seized from Bank of Saipan, Pacific American Title Inc. and Security Title Inc. is currently in the U.S. District Court for the NMI's registry.

Thompson moved the court to issue an order authorizing the release to Pacific Rim of all funds received

and/or held pursuant to the writ of execution of the accounts of IPI from the Bank of Saipan and writ of execution of money held by Pacific American and Security Title for IPI, toward satisfaction of the court's \$6.9-million judgment against IPI.

Last April 27, Manglona entered a judgment in favor of Pacific Rim in the amount of \$5.65 million against IPI for breach of promissory note.

Last May 26, Manglona amended the judgment to incorporate pre-judgment interest and attorneys' fees. The clerk then on May 28 entered an amended judgment in the amount of \$6.9 million plus post judgment interest.

In Pacific Rim's motion filed Thursday, Thompson said that last May 27, his client filed its first application for writ of execution requesting the court to order the U.S. Marshal to seize money belonging to IPI held in various banks within the district.

Last week, Manglona denied Pacific Rim's two other requests to seize IPI's money from Bank of Saipan and personal property.

CPA is putting together an action plan in preparation for yesterday's target date of reopening the CNMI to tourists, including barring individuals dropping off passengers at the departure terminal from entering the terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

CPA said flights from Asia would not be coming until September 2020.

The CPA board of directors has adopted a resolution that provides 50% discount in enplanement, deplanement, and landing fees to both signatory and non-signatory airlines, due to circumstances caused by the COVID-19.

The discounted rates took effect last July 1 until Dec. 31, 2020. However, CPA's executive director is authorized to amend the discounts at any time to reflect any changed circumstances related to COVID-19.

Additionally, the task force will be utilizing Mariana Resort soon.

"There are consequences for folks that are not adhering to the inbound protocol, and we are serious and taking things to the next level measure. You know, we need to minimize the risk of COVID-19 here in the CNMI," said Villagomez.

"There's some confusion, sometimes I think the travelers think that we are here to accommodate... they all want to be at home, I mean not all of them but a lot of them want to be at home and, you know, when we are following the protocols, we are considering the risk that is coming into the island," said Muna.

Muna said that the top priority is to keep the CNMI protected. She added that everyone has an individual right to protect themselves but overall, CHCC and the task force are here to protect the rights of the people that are here, complying with the requirements of safety for everyone.

"A traveler, it is a higher risk than someone who's not left to CNMI so our goal is to protect and, you know, like, chairman said, we're very serious about it and if you don't adhere to it, we are going to take actions," said Muna.

the Japan-Saipan flights last March 26 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The company's original plan was that the suspension should only until May 10, 2020.

King-Hinds said yesterday was the target date to have the framework for the resumption of tourism in a way that provided the most safety for the population.

King-Hinds said the CNMI has established a lot of mitigation measures to provide for a safe opening and with the resumption and expansion of community COVID-19 testing, it was the hope that the Commonwealth can resume some level of tourism arrivals.

"However, this is an evolving situation and the path forward will require much consideration and conversation with our tourism and public health partners," she said.

and CHCC detect and contain COVID-19 within the CNMI. Community testing can also help health officials know the wide spread of the virus.

Should you test positive for COVID-19 a CNMI health representative will meet with you to help you understand your infection risk. Additionally, you'll be ordered to isolate at the designated isolation site to protect others around you. You will be connected to affordable medical treatment if needed, regardless of income or immigration status.

Anyone you have been in close contact with can also access help if you've been exposed to the virus. Your information and the information of your close contacts will not be shared.

Former Mariana Resort to open soon for quarantine

In an attempt to lower the capacity at the quarantine/isolation site at Kanoa Resort in Susupe, the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force chair, Warren Villagomez, said in a news briefing, that they will be utilizing former Mariana Resort & Spa in Marpi as another quarantine facility.

Villagomez added that Kanoa Resort now holds 122 people at the quarantine/facility site as of July 14.

FLIGHTS*From Page 1*

Ports Authority board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds.

As this developed, Skymark Airlines Inc. announced last Monday their decision to extend again the suspension of all flight operations between Narita and Saipan until Oct. 24, 2020 due to decreased travel demand due to the global COVID-19 outbreak.

"We will continue to give top priority to the safety of our flights," Skymark said in its website's announcement.

Citing the same reason, last month Skymark announced the extension of the suspension of all flights between Narita and Saipan until Sept. 30, 2020. The airlines started suspending

3 MORE*From Page 1*

be monitored closely. The three passengers were tested twice, upon arrival, last July 9, and on the fifth day of testing, last July 14.

Additionally, all three passengers are asymptomatic which means that they don't show any symptom. CHCC has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts passengers on the same flight, close family members, friends, and associates of the new confirmed cases.

Of the total 36 confirmed cases, 36% or 13 cases have been identified through port of entry screening procedures in line with the Governor's Executive Order, Directive 8.

The COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC has also regenerated their community-based testing last July 14 this time at their isolation site in Kanoa Resort (*See related story on Page 6*). Individuals who wish to be tested can register and access their results at: www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19/testing and www.cnmicovidresults.com.

Community testing for COVID-19 is not mandatory. It is another surveillance tool to help the task force

Manglona set the motion for an order in aid of judgment for a hearing on July 23, 2020 to determine IPI's ability to pay and the fastest manner in which it can reasonably pay the balance of the \$6.9-million judgment.

The judge said Pacific Rim may reapply, but it must demonstrate good cause why the court should issue a writ.

Manglona said Pacific Rim does not explain why an additional writ of the Bank of Saipan should issue in this matter.

Hundreds of IPI workers recently held protests in front of the District Court after they failed to get their two paychecks allegedly because of

the court's writ of execution that resulted in the seizure and closure of IPI's payroll account with the Bank of Saipan.

Pacific Rim is suing IPI and five unnamed alleged co-conspirators for breach of contract (construction and promissory note) and unjust enrichment.

Pacific Rim claimed to have substantially completed or completed the agreed upon construction work on Sept. 30, 2018.

IPI brought counterclaims against Pacific Rim for promissory fraud, fraud in the inducement as to the promissory note, violation of Consumer Protection Act, and breach of contract.

TENSIONS*From Page 1*

lowing the lawmaker's back-to-back questions on nepotism, furloughs, and civil service rules.

House Ways & Means chair Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan) had to call for a short recess to cut the tension, with Guerrero walking out of the chamber, followed by the rest of his staff, leaving the legislators huddling in a private discussion immediately after.

Sablan raised concerns about nepotism in hiring that allegedly is happening at DPS, in particular, the hiring of the commissioner's sons, brother, nieces, and nephews.

"Only one was transferred when I was on board and I did not take part in any of his transfer."

When Sablan followed up with "Only one? Don't you have two sons?" Guerrero said he has two sons, but reiterated that since he got on board, only one got transferred down and insisted that he did not hire his son.

"He was transferred from [Office of Planning and Management] from Commerce, No. 1. No. 2, I was not part of the process. I recused myself from it. As a matter of fact, specifically, I don't allow any of my kids actually to come work for the department."

"But don't you have two sons that work for the department?" Sablan again asked, but was met with a loud "I did not hire the first one, I just told you. Which part don't you understand?" from the commissioner, who then called to Blanco and said, "Mr. chairman, if this is gonna continue the way it is, we're done."

Sablan continued probing and asked if Guerrero has any other relatives since the academy has been instituted.

"Congresswoman, half of these people here are my relatives. What do you say to that?" Guerrero asked back.

No loyalty means furloughs?

Aside from nepotism, Sablan also questioned the commissioner on the selection process in terms of furloughing employees. DPS had 228 personnel—184 of whom are sworn officers and 40 civilians. Eleven got furloughed, leaving them with 217.

According to Guerrero, his decision was based on performance and loyalty, and that those who got furloughed had issues with performance and with their loyalty to the

department.

The commissioner also said that he did not follow Civil Service Commission rules where an appointing authority has to exhaust all administrative alternatives to place an employee in another equivalent position before reduction-in-force procedures are instituted. However, he mentioned that he consulted with the Office of Planning and Management on the furloughs.

Under CSC rules, furloughs of more than 30 calendar days are reduction-in-force actions, and shall be accomplished using reduction-in-force procedures. Guerrero also stated that he is aware that a reduction-in-force is for lack of funds.

With CSC regulations also saying that a reduction-in-force, in this instance, is not for disciplinary action, the legislator further pressed Guerrero on his earlier statement that his decision to furlough was based on performance and loyalty.

"Sounds like they were furloughed that were, in fact, based on disciplinary action," Sablan added, to which the commissioner did not agree with.

"That was based on my evaluation, who I decided to furlough," Guerrero said, adding that it is based on performance. "We furloughed them [due to] lack of funds. I sought out alternative means that I have. The main reason that they were furloughed was for the lack of funds, and then based on that, I had to make a decision which of the employees that I have get furloughed."

Sablan further asked whether he is aware that under civil service regulations, seniority and tenure, and protection of the public interest, should be recognized in a reduction-in-force, and that when positions are abolished, the incumbents should have first priority, and that limited-term appointees and recent hires should be cut first.

The commissioner said he is aware, but that he did not recognize and consider seniority when he made his decision to furlough.

At the budget hearing, the Office of the Governor proposed a \$4.8 million allotment for DPS, almost half a cut from the \$7-million budget the department has originally proposed. This included a \$2.1-million cut for personnel, \$259,000 for operations.

Guerrero is amenable with the governor's proposal, but appealed to the members of the House of Representatives to draft legislation for hazard pay and night differential for DPS personnel.

OAG files DUI, other traffic charges against DFW director, cop

The Office of the Attorney General has filed separate traffic charges against Division of Fish and Wildlife director Manuel M. Pangelinan and police officer Virolanson Castro Secharmidal for allegedly driving while under the influence of alcohol.

Pangelinan, 57, was charged with DUI, reckless driving, failure to possess registration card, and lack of safety inspection proof.

Secharmidal, 22, was charged with DUI, reckless driving, failure to remain at the scene of accident, and failure to drive on the right half of the highway.

Pangelinan and Secharmidal pleaded not guilty of the charges.

In Pangelinan's case, as-

sistant attorney general Steven C. Kessell stated in the information that, on June 12, 2020 on Saipan, Pangelinan drove a vehicle upon a highway while under the influence of alcohol and at a high rate of speed.

Pangelinan allegedly drove the vehicle without possessing the vehicle's registration card and lacking proof that the vehicle was inspected at the time of the registration.

Saipan Tribune learned that the director was driving a pickup truck when police pulled him over in Lower Base.

In Secharmidal's case, Kessell stated that on May 3, 2020 on Saipan, the officer drove a motor vehicle upon a highway while having a Blood Alcohol Concentration of 0.08 or

more as measured by a breath or test, or "0.188 grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath."

Secharmidal allegedly failed to control his speed or by speeding in gross excess of the posted speed limit or by failing to keep a proper lookout or a combination of these traffic violations which resulted in his car colliding with a concrete utility pole.

Secharmidal allegedly failed to remain at the scene of an accident involving damage to personal property and failed to drive on the right half of highway.

Saipan Tribune learned that the vehicle slammed into the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power pole on the shoulder of a hill on Tun Joaquin Doi Road near the corner

of Tun Antonio Apa Road in Fina Sisú. The car was then engulfed in fire.

According to the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, the fire was reported May 3 at 11:39pm and that DFEMS firefighters controlled the blaze at 12:10am, May 4.

No one was reported injured. DFEMS and the Department of Public Safety did not release information at the time as to who was the driver of the car.

According to Kessell, DUI carries a penalty of imprisonment for not less than 72 hours nor more than one year and by a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000.

Kessell said DUI also carries a penalty of suspension

of the privilege to operate a motor vehicle for not less than 30 days nor more than six months, and revocation of driver's license.

With respect to reckless driving, the prosecutor said the offense carries a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment of not more than six months.

Kessell said violator may also attend a course in driver education if such course is offered, and to obtain a certificate of attendance at the satisfactory completion of that course.

With respect to driving a vehicle without possessing the vehicle's registration card, it carries a fine of not more than \$1,000 for the first

conviction and for a second or any subsequent conviction within a period of one year by a fine of not more than \$250.

Kessell said driving a vehicle without having proof the vehicle was inspected at the time of registration carries a fine of not more than \$50.

He said failure to remain at the scene of an accident carries imprisonment for not more than six months or by a fine of more than \$500, or both.

He said failure to drive on the right half of highway carries a fine of not more than \$100 for the first conviction and for a second or any subsequent conviction within a period of one year by a fine of not more than \$250. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR OLDER BLIND (ILOB) CALLING ALL SENIORS 55 YEARS ^{and} OLDER

Information
and referral
advocacy training
Peer counseling
Diagnostic vision
Eyeglasses
or other
visual aides
Self sufficient
Health
maintenance
training

Family Support
Equipment to be
more mobile

cane, walker, talking watch,
hearing aids,

Transportation
...and more



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
Voice: (670) 322-6537/38
Fax: (670) 322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6549
Website: www.ovrgov.net

CALL
NOW!



Eligibility Criteria

Corrected Vision

The Independent Living for older blind (ILOB) Program serves individuals who are legally blind or severely visually-impaired whose corrected vision in the better eye is 20/70 or worse. Don't worry if you are not sure about what your corrected vision is. The ILOB Case Worker Assistant will refer you to an eye clinic for a vision exam. As soon as OVR receives the report, it will be reviewed and you will be contacted to discuss the results. Eligibility for ILOB services will be based on the vision report.

Age Criteria

You have to be 55 years or older to apply for ILOB services.

CALL NOW!

JEMMIE ANN A. AGULTO
INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR OLDER BLIND (ILOB)
CASEWORKER ASSISTANT

EMAIL: JEMMIE@OVRGOV.NET

VOICE: (670) 322-6537/38

TTY: (670) 322-6549

CNMI Community-Based COVID-19 Testing reopens

The Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. announced the reopening of the CNMI Community-Based Testing Initiative.

COVID-19 testing reopened on Saipan and Tinian on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 and reopened yesterday, July 15, 2020 on Rota. Spots are limited by location. Future testing dates will be updated and announced.

The task force optimized the governor’s website to reflect the current testing schedule and locations as well as available slots. This information will be updated routinely.

Specifically, at Kanoa Resort Saipan, there are workstations available at Station 3 for community members who have not registered. Please note that even though you register at Station 3, your testing date will be based on the next available slot.

For businesses with 50 or more employees and for all government agencies, please call 287-0046/287-1089/287-0489 for information on group registrations.

People who were previously tested through the Community-Based COVID-19 Testing Initiative are not able to register for testing at this time.

Steps for CNMI Community-Based COVID-19 Testing Initiative:

1. People interested in being tested for COVID-19, can register online or by phone.
 - The registration portal for all islands will be using the Governor’s COVID-19 Task

- Force site at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19/testing. Or call 287-0046 / 287-1089 / 287-0489
 - People who were previously tested through the Community-Based COVID-19 Testing Initiative are not able to register for testing at this time.
2. Write down your Confirmation ID.
 - Your Confirmation ID will be provided to you after you register. TIP: Your confirmation ID is unique to you. It cannot be shared or transferred.
 - Please use an email address that you have access to when you register online. Your Confirmation ID will be sent to your email. TIP: Check your spam/junk folder
 - If you want to register over the phone, your Confirmation ID will be given to you by a CHCC COVID-19 Info Line representative.
3. Prepare for your appointment.
 - Bring your Confirmation ID provided to you after registration. Your Confirmation ID is required at your appointment.
 - Wear a face covering throughout the appointment
4. Visit your testing site.
5. Self-quarantine while you wait for your results.
6. Wait at least 72 hours from the specimen collection appointment for your results.
 - Register at www.cnmico-vidresults.com
 - Sign in and search for your result using your confirmation ID
 - Save or print a hard copy of your results immediately.

Results will only be available on this site for a timeframe of two weeks.

Community testing for COVID-19 is not mandatory. It is another surveillance tool to help the Task Force and CHCC detect and contain the SARS-COV2 virus, the virus that causes COVID-19, within the CNMI. Community testing may also help us understand how widespread the virus is in the community.

At this time, community testing for COVID-19 involves inserting a long swab (like a Q-tip) into the cavity between the nose and mouth. This might be more uncomfortable for some people. Getting tested for COVID-19 does not improve response to the illness, nor does it reduce the risk of contracting or transmitting the disease. Our goal is to provide results as quickly as possible within a reasonable time-frame. People who are tested and have a negative result are still vulnerable to the virus.

Community testing will help us to identify people who may be infected with the virus, especially those who may be pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic, so we can direct these people to the appropriate care, contain the virus, and prevent its spread using tools such as quarantine, isolation, and contact tracing.

Should you test positive for SARS-COV2, the virus which causes COVID-19, a CNMI Health Representative will meet with you to help you understand your infection risk. You’ll be ordered to isolate at the designated isolation site to protect others around you. You will be connected to affordable medical treatment if needed, regardless of income or immigration status.

Anyone you have been in close contact with can also access help if you’ve been exposed to the virus. Your information and the information of your close contacts will not

Island	Date	Time	Location	Drive-Thru/Walk-up
Saipan	• 7/18/2020	• 1:00PM-3:00PM	Kanoa Resort Saipan	Both
Tinian	• 7/15/2020 • 7/16/2020	• 8:30AM - 11:00AM • 8:30AM - 11:00AM • 8:30AM - 11:00AM	Baseball Field Huangshun Laundromat 3 K’s Laundromat	Walk-up
Rota	• 7/15/2020 • 7/16/2020	• 1:00PM-4:00PM	Rota Health Center	Walk-up

be shared.

As a reminder, it is essential for everyone in the community to continue to practice good hand-hygiene, wear a face-covering, social distancing, and limit time spent in public places as much as possible.

Practice the 3 W’s - Wash your hands. Watch your distance. Wear a face covering.

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.
- Practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.
- Limit the size of your gatherings. The risk of COVID-19 spreading at events and gatherings increases as follows:
 - ❖ Lowest risk: Virtual-only activities, events, and gatherings.
 - ❖ More risk: Smaller outdoor and in-person gatherings in which individuals from different households remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, wear cloth face coverings, do not share objects, and come from the same local area (e.g., community, town, city, or county).
 - ❖ Higher risk: Medium-sized in-person gatherings that are adapted to allow individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and with attendees coming from outside the local area.

- ❖ Highest risk: Large in-person gatherings where it is difficult for individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and attendees travel from outside the local area.
 - Wear a face covering. For more information about DIY face coverings, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>
 - Be cautious when dining out and pick up food through drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options when possible.
 - Plan your errand trips to limit the time spent in public, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
 - Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic:

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - ❖ Avoid or limit visiting public places. Do not visit your place of work. You may leave to get necessary medical care, food, or other supplies if no one else in your household is able to fulfill these needs for you.
 - ❖ Separate yourself from others in your home, especially if you are experiencing symptoms or if others in your

- home are not in quarantine. Limit visitors
 - Stay in a separate room and use a separate bathroom if possible.
 - We encourage you and people in your household to wear a face covering.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
 - Cover your coughs/sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If there is no tissue, use your sleeve. Not your hands!
 - Practice social-distancing and wear a face-covering. If you need to go out, maintain at least 6 feet distance away from others. Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Take your temperature and keep a log of any symptoms you might have. A fever is 100.4°F or 38°C

The Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force continues to manage COVID-19 inquiries and residents are encouraged to utilize this resource for additional information. The Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force numbers are 287-0046, 287-1089, or 287-0489. These numbers are available Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 6pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis please call the Mental Health Support Line at 323-6560 or 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday

See CNMI on Next Page

CHCC COVID-19 Info Line transitions to Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation would like to inform the community that the CHCC COVID-19 Info Line will be transitioning to the Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force through the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management on July 17, 2020.

This transition will allow for streamlined management and coordination for all COVID-19 related calls on a variety of topics including travel procedures, testing, results, and general information.

The CHCC COVID-19 Info Line was established on March 16, 2020 under the CHCC Area of Command

COVID-19 Response to address COVID-19 related questions from CNMI residents. In the four months of operation, the info line has answered more than 4,000 calls. The CHCC and the Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force will continue to provide public health guidance and updates about the ongoing pandemic through its websites and social media accounts.

The Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force continues to manage COVID-19 inquiries, and residents are encouraged to utilize this resource for additional information.

The Governor’s COVID-19

Task Force numbers are 287-0046, 287-1089, or 287-0489. These numbers are available Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 6pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis please call the Mental Health Support Line at 323-6560 or 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday 7:30am to 4:30pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline please call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about CHCC programs, please follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram,


Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp

chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force, visit governor.gov.mp and please follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Rumor Control – Stop the Spread of Misinformation

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC. **(PR)**



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP20-BECQ/DEQ-087**

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 03, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

**“GROUNDWATER MONITORING SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS
EVENT – FORMER W-2 SERVICES STATION FOR THE
BUREAU OF ENVIROMENTAL COASTAL QUALITY,
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A **PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING** IS SCHEDULED FOR **10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, JULY 20, 2020** AT THE 2ND FLOOR BECQ CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 205).
****ALL ATTENDEES ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK AND EXERCISE SOCIAL DISTANCING FOR THE DURATION OF THE MEETING****

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL TO MR. ROBERT DELEON GUERRERO BY EMAIL AT robertdguerrero@becq.gov.mp, **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS JULY 22, 2020**. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PERSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

2020 CNMI Prevailing Wage Study survey now closed

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, through the CNMI Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division, would like to thank all the businesses and employers who participated in the 2020 Prevailing Wage Study (2020 PWS).

"This report would not have been possible without the participation of our local businesses. The information gathered from the Prevailing Wage Study is vital to our short and long-term economic recovery plans, especially as we navigate through the current COVID-19 pandemic. Lt. Gov. Palacios

and I would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the businesses that took time out of their busy schedules to complete this survey," said Torres.

Preliminary results of the 2020 Prevailing Wage Study survey show a response rate of 70 percent with 713 total businesses registered, 632 reporting over 15,000 total employees with 487 detailed occupational titles recorded. Data collection began on June 11, 2020 and was concluded on July 10, 2020.

"We began the survey with the goal to achieve a response rate as close to 100% as possible.

Although we did not hit that mark, I am still very pleased with the 70% response rate, considering the devastating effects of the pandemic on our local businesses, employers, and island community. Now that the data collection phase is complete, the PWS team at the Central Statistics Division will diligently work in the coming days to clean the data and produce the CW-1 Occupation and Wage Statistics report for the governor to transmit to the U.S. Department of Labor for review and approval. I also want to thank all our businesses on Saipan, Rota and Tinian and everyone else involved, for their efforts on the 2020 Prevailing Wage Study," said Secretary of Commerce Mark O. Rabauliman.

The Northern Marianas Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018 requires the CNMI to produce a CNMI Prevailing Wage Report for the determination and approval of CW-1 work visas on an annual basis.

Central Statistics Division director Justin Andrew commented, "It is very important that the survey gathers information from all the CNMI businesses and employers to ensure that an hourly wage rate is derived from the maxi-

mum number of Occupational Titles available for employers when applying for CW-1 visas. The portal has been closed for data collection, but it is still open for registration only and we want to encourage those

who were not able to complete the 2020 PWS survey, including any newly formed businesses, to visit the portal and register so that we have their contact information for next year's survey."

The Central Statistics Division plans to begin the 2021 Prevailing Wage Study survey in mid-spring of 2021. Businesses can access the portal at <http://cnmidata.commerce.gov.mp/>. **(PR)**

JKPL offers e-book access through Baker & Taylor's Axis 360

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library offers online e-books and audiobooks from Baker & Taylor through Axis 360. You can access the eBooks by downloading the AXIS 360 app from one of following: iOS, Android, and Kindle Fire devices.

What is the Axis 360 e-book collection and how does it work? Axis 360 provides access to popular and bestselling eBooks. The collection includes thousands of titles for adults, teens, and children. Titles are automatically returned at the end of the loan period, and there are no late fees.

Check out the following new ebooks available online for free at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library through Axis 360: *Becoming* by Michelle Obama, *The Complete Guide to Fasting* by Dr. Jason Fung, *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson, *Front Row at the Trump Show* by Jonathan Karl, *Profiles in Corruption*

by Peter Schweizer, *Big Little* by Leslie Patricelli, *Mamba Mentality: How I Play* by Kobe Bryant, *Camino Winds* by John Grisham, *The Devil and Miss Prym* by Paulo Coelho, *The Harbinger* by Jonathan Cahn, *Cross Justice* by James Patterson, *Open Book* by Jessica Simpson, *Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass* by Meg Medina, *Fat Angie* by Charlton-Trujillo, E.E., and so much more! We have the latest bestsellers for adults, teens, and children!

If you do not have a tablet or smartphone, you can access Axis 360 from a web browser on your computer by using the website <https://jkpl.axis360.baker-taylor.com/>.

A library card and a PIN is required. To request for a PIN, please call the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library at (670) 235-7322/7323.

Programs and activities are made possible by generous Educational Tax Credit do-

nors, Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, community partners, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services IMLS Grant # LSTA LS-00-19-0052-19, IMLS Grant #LSTA LS-01-19-0058-19, IMLS Grant# LSTA LS-246158-OLS-20, and IMLS Grant# LSTA LS-246573-OLS-20.

For the latest news and events, please visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmlib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joetenkiyupubliclibrary. Follow the library on Instagram @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Pinterest @ Joeten Kiyu, and Snapchat @ Joeten Kiyu. The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's summer hours of operation effective Tuesday, June 9, 2020 are by appointment only: Tuesday to Thursday from 9:30am to 4:30 pm, Friday and Saturday from 9:30am to 12noon. Closed Sunday, Monday, and holidays. **(PR)**

CNMI

From Page 6

7:30am-4:30pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline please call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990

For more information about DIY face coverings, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, please follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmi-chcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at

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Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

Thursday, July 23, 2020 | 5:00 PM
Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center Building
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp



AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 02/25/2020 Zoning Board Meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-0730:** Shalom Church proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Church establishment. This use is classified as "Church or Place of Worship" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. TR. 21859-3-1 in Fina Sisu village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2019-5005:** Global Corporation Phoenix Garden A proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 128 D 36 in Garapan village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2019-5007:** Global Corporation Phoenix Garden C proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 128 D 43 in Garapan village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
4. **Conditional Use Application #2020-1492:** Marked 4 Life Tattoo is proposing to occupy & operate its tattoo services. This use is classified as "Personal Services" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 010 K 224 in Dandan village.
5. **Conditional Use Application #2020-0720:** Pacific International Property Management LLC is proposing to construct two structures for Residential Use (Multifamily or Apartment). This use is classified as "Residential Uses" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located

C. Communication

1. FY 2021 Budget
2. FY 2019 DRAFT Annual Report
3. Department Organizational and Functional Chart

D. Old Business

1. ITB 19-ZB-134 "Vehicle purchase for Enforcement & Operations"
2. Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 Regulations

E. Executive (Closed) Session

F. New Business

1. Election of Officers
2. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

G. Miscellaneous

1. Other Matters
2. Announcements
3. Next Meeting

H. Adjournment

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will also air this meeting via:

Zoom Video Communications

Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/6853007492?pwd=SlVzQWdGK0x3ci90OUh6REkydU1wQT09>
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492
Password: July23

This meeting will also be aired on the Office of the Governor's Facebook page.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-20-007

Archaeological Services for S19-069 Construction of Afetna Sewer Collection Upgrade

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from Archaeologists or firms that meet the U.S. Department of Interior qualifications (36CFR61) to create a work plan, to prepare information, data and documentation needed to conduct Section 106 Review of the National Historic Preservation Act for FY19 for the construction of a new sewerline in Afetna Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval of the USEPA.

The existing Afetna sewer system was privately built and poorly installed due to excessive buildup of the Garment Industry. The project aims to replace the old system with approximately 5000 linear feet of new gravity sewer main with new sewer laterals and the installation of sewer manholes.

The scope of Archaeological Services will include, but not be limited to:

1. Conducting the necessary research and fieldwork that represents a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties, to include archaeological resources, as set out in the regulations 36 CFR § 800.4(b)(1):
 - a. Background research design and work plan;
 - b. Archival background information;
 - c. Sample field investigation, and field survey;
 - d. Past planning, research and studies;
 - e. The magnitude and nature of the undertaking;
 - f. The degree of federal involvement;
 - g. The nature and extent of potential effects on historic properties within the APE;
 - h. The likely nature, identification and location of historic properties within the APE; and,
 - i. Create a mitigation plan to resolve adverse effects.
2. Preparation of the necessary reports and letters for submittal to various federal and local resource agencies to address environmental requirements of Section 106 to completely secure concurrence for the projects ready for construction.
3. Deliverables
 - a. 2 copies of the final report for review and approval to HPO and CUC, and
 - b. Map showing the location of identified historic properties which would assist with alignment of the sewerline to avoid such properties.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-RFP-20-007: Archaeological Services for S-19-069 Construction of Afetna Sewer Collection Upgrade**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 14, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 27, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer, via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLÁN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

Trump's plan to expel foreign students was an attack on US science leadership

From the Trump administration perspective, suddenly forcing international students out of the country must have looked like three wins in one. It would have ejected mostly non-European immigrants, advanced the administration's new demand that schools reopen their campuses despite the threat posed by COVID-19 and financially and academically harmed universities, which Trump views as bastions of liberal indoctrination.

Not to mention striking a blow against science, and especially against the nation's leadership in scientific research, which has come about largely because of its globally admired university programs in engineering and laboratory science.

At least the odious preliminary directive was withdrawn Tuesday, though we don't know how new students and those whose visas are ending will be affected. The original version would have required the international students to leave the country unless they attended in-person classes this fall. It would have given universities that are planning to offer only online courses until Wednesday to come up with in-person lesson plans for their international students. Seventeen states and the District of Columbia sued and the plan's chances were looking iffy in court Tuesday.

Still, this ridiculous attempt shouldn't be forgotten by the American public. It was a harmful and punitive measure for no purpose other than to be harmful and punitive, and it would have injured the nation's economy as well as the noble purposes of higher education. About a million international students, more than half of them from China or India, pursue their studies in the United States. They make up at least three-fourths of the graduate students in computer science and industrial, petroleum and electrical engineering, and large numbers in laboratory sciences. This country is literally richer for their presence.

The United States is at the forefront in many of the sciences because of its outstanding STEM graduate programs. Silicon Valley wasn't just an accident that sprang up in Santa Clara County; it came about because of the presence of Stanford and UC Berkeley. The biomedical industry in the San Diego area grew from the programs at UC San Diego. And these students are a major reason those programs remain robust.

Many students return home after graduation, but many others have taken on important roles in those science, technology, engineering and math industries and in research programs in this country. While they're here as grad students, they contribute \$45 billion a year to the economy, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The situation on COVID-19 is changing by the week,

See **TRUMP'S** on Next Page



The White House could be turning independent Voice of America into Trump radio network

In the newest White House nod to neo-authoritarianism, President Donald Trump seems bent on remaking Voice of America into Voice of Trump.

This U.S.-funded network was set up in Washington, D.C., in 1942 to broadcast news of America overseas. It was never intended to be a partisan propaganda tool, like state-run Russian or Chinese overseas networks. Nor was it meant to be the voice of one political party.

Rather, its mission was to present foreign audiences with nonpartisan news coverage of our country, ranging from U.S. politics and foreign policy to American culture. Under veteran journalist Amanda Bennett (a former editor-in-chief of The Philadelphia Inquirer), a highly professional staff of U.S. and foreign journalists delivered TV and radio programs to 236.6 million people worldwide.

However, in April, President Trump and his allies started attacking VOA over its (accurate) coverage of the pandemic. Last month, the GOP-controlled Senate confirmed Michael Pack, an ally of Steve Bannon, to head a new U.S. Agency for Global Media that will now oversee VOA and affiliated agencies such as Radio Free Asia and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. Bennett resigned, and Pack immediately purged professionals atop every division, while putting low-level Trump political appointees on the new oversight board in place of bipartisan luminaries.

But the story got even uglier last week, as Pack was reportedly ready to refuse renewal of visas for foreign staff who come from authoritarian states, putting them at grave risk if they are forced to return home.

"No doubt this will put people in danger, but this risk appears of no interest to the administration," says Ryan Crocker, a former ambassador to Iraq, Afghanistan, and other countries. (Crocker served on the Broadcasting Board of Governors that was replaced by Trump's new oversight board.)

Many VOA foreign staff come from nations such as Thailand, Russia, China or Zimbabwe where the state controls most or all news outlets and represses any independent media. "Many work at VOA because they can't do real journalism at home due to censorship," one VOA source told me. These journalists undergo rigorous scrutiny before they are hired by U.S. agencies. Their language skills and contacts at home can't be replaced by U.S. journalists.

What is particularly sickening is the idea that the White House might send these journalists back to authoritarian countries where VOA is under vicious attack, and those who had worked for the agency would face grave danger. "It takes my breath away," Crocker told me.

Consider this: On the very day last week that the news broke about Pack's signaling he wouldn't approve visa extensions, the Russian State Duma (parliament) was accusing VOA and Radio

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.



Free Europe/Radio Liberty of disseminating "destructive, misleading and provocative information," and its staffers of being "foreign agents." That, no doubt, is because those outlets were providing Russian listeners with straightforward information about the recent Russian referendum that essentially confirmed Vladimir Putin as president for life — and was reportedly rife with rigging.

Yet, Pack would consider not renewing visas for Russian journalists, nor journalists from other countries where they might face arrest or worse. Perhaps that will gain him a medal from the Russian State Duma. Already, the Kremlin overseas media mouthpiece, RT (formerly Russia Today), has cheered on the White House attack on VOA.

The White House crackdown on VOA is so egregious that even GOP Sens. Lindsey Graham and Marco Rubio have joined a bipartisan group of senators who are already questioning Pack's methods.

What really needs to be questioned is whether Trump wants to make VOA into a propaganda instrument to promote his personal agenda abroad.

The way the White House attacked VOA's China coverage would seem to indicate this is the case.

In April, the official White House website put out a news release charging that VOA "spends your money to promote foreign propaganda." Trump's grievance appeared to be a link on a VOA video to an Associated Press news article that described the end of the Chinese lockdown in Wuhan, along with the factual info that the COVID-19 death toll in the U.S. exceeded China's. (Never mind, as Bennett detailed in a news release, the long list of VOA reports on Chinese secrecy and misinformation on the pandemic.)

If those facts that irritated Trump were "propaganda," one can only imagine the misinformation on the coronavirus that Trump would like VOA to report to the world. That the U.S. has the "best testing" in the world and has crushed the virus? That Trump has handled the pan-

See **THE WHITE** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

July 16, 1945: The Trinity Test



Photo shows the little container holding the plutonium sphere being loaded into the Packard that took it to the Trinity site.



The gadget being hoisted up the tower.

By **DON FARREL**

Special to the
Saipan Tribune

Don Farrell is author of the acclaimed book *Tinian and The Bomb*, available on line at <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07BMTVF1K>



Today, July 16, 2020, is the 75th anniversary of a true turning-point in world history. It is worthy to reflect on what happened then, and how it affected life in the Marianas then and now.

With the war in the Pacific reaching its climax, scientists and military technicians were preparing for a billion-dollar science fair project, codenamed the Trinity Test. Because of its military potential, Major General Leslie Groves, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Commanding Officer of the Manhattan Project, was present. No media allowed.

Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, director of the Los Alamos Laboratory was on the hot seat. After two years of work, Oppenheimer was preparing to prove that an atom of plutonium could be split in half and in the process spark a nuclear chain reaction, releasing huge amounts of energy. The time had come to put up or shut up.

Oppenheimer's "gadget" had been assembled at the Los Alamos Laboratories, without the nuclear material, which would be inserted last. This was an implosion-type, plutonium-based device, a totally new scientific creation. Over the last two years, and millions and millions of War Department dollars, scientists and engineers had manufactured sufficient plutonium in top secret nuclear reactors at Hanford,

Washington to produce a sphere of it about the size of a softball. With thirty-two concentrically shaped, black-powder charges surrounding it, all designed to explode absolutely simultaneously, the scientists expected to crush the ball of plutonium to about the size of a golf-ball, at which point it would reach critical mass and explode – according their formulae. They would find out, one way or the other, at the Trinity Test.

After one last honing at Los Alamos on July 12, the hemispheres of the plutonium core were placed inside a lead-lined, aluminum bucket, which was carried from the Laboratory to the backseat of a 1945 Packard and driven to a ranch house on the Alamogordo Bombing Range in the *Jornado del Muerto* desert, "Journey of Death," New Mexico. At 0900 Friday morning, July 13, the plutonium hemi-spheres and the polonium initiator were properly assembled, and wrapped in a gold foil dampener, and driven further into the desert, arriving at the base of a 200-foot-tall, steel forestry tower. It required two days to properly insert the core into the 7,000-pound gadget, hoist it to the top of the tower, connect all the electrical circuits within the gadget, test them, then connect the gadget to Trinity Base Camp, 10,000 feet away, and test all the circuits again.

It rained on the morning of the 16th. Nobody wanted to play with electricity in the rain. Groves became agitated. The rain gods quieted. Oppenheimer agreed to a 0530 firing. Among the physicists, chemists, mathematicians, and metallurgists watching from 10 miles away, the odds on what would happen were running about even. Predictions varied from a complete fizzle to the destruction of Earth.

The countdown began. Everyone was ordered to lay face down, feet toward the blast. After the blast, they could set up and watch

whatever happened through smoked glass.

The clock ticked down. Suddenly, with no sound, matter became energy. The desert lit up, "brighter than a thousand suns," said one observer. Groves rolled over and looked at the growing mass of brilliant energy being released from that small ball of plutonium. Then came the roar and the wind blast.

Groves, a gruff SOB, was astounded, almost dumbfounded. One of the scientists grinned and said, "The damned thing worked." Others said something more along the line of, "Oh shit!"

The nuclear era was born.

Groves immediately sent a telex to the No. 2 man in the War Department, who sent the following message to Potsdam, Germany, where President Truman was waiting for the results.

"Operated on this morning. Diagnosis not yet complete, but results seem satisfactory and already exceed expectations."

Truman smiled, and put it in his pocket.

However, July 16 was far from over. Just hours later that same morning, a large wooden crate weighing about ten tons and marked "Top Secret" was lashed down to the deck of the light cruiser USS *Indianapolis* at Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, San Francisco. A 300 # lead-lined, aluminum bucket holding about half the uranium necessary for a different kind of atomic bomb (a term not often used since H. G. Wells created it in *The World Set Free*, 1914), was bolted to the deck of the flag officer's cabin. One of two couriers from the Manhattan Project would remain with the bucket for the duration of the cruise.

Captain Charles Butler McVay, III, com-

manding officer of the *Indianapolis*, received a most extraordinary order with the box and the bucket:

"You will sail at high speed to Tinian where your cargo will be taken off by others. You will not be told what the cargo is, but it is to be guarded even after the life of your vessel. If she goes down, save the cargo at all costs, in a lifeboat if necessary. And every day you save on your voyage will cut the length of the war by just that much."

The *Indianapolis* left immediately, sailing under the Golden Gate Bridge, making a beeline for Tinian, some 5,700 miles west.

In the days after the Trinity Test, scientists and technicians from Los Alamos began flying to Tinian. Colonel Elmer E. Kirkpatrick, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, had arrived at Tinian the end of March and began constructing the facilities the scientists and technicians would need to assemble atomic bombs, as many as necessary to force Japan to surrender. Commander Dick Ashworth, USN, arrived with Dr. Norman Ramsey, to oversee the bomb assembly and delivery, if necessary. On July 25, the order to drop the first bomb was issued. The *Indianapolis* arrived at Tinian the next day.

Scientists and technicians on Tinian prepared for the next great experiment—could an "atom bomb" be dropped from a B-29 at 30,000 feet and have the same results?

Note: Photos are from Los Alamos Historical Museum through a grant from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

THE WHITE

From Page 8

demic better than any other leader?

Can you imagine how the world would react to such broadcasts, and how they would reflect on VOA and Trump?

"VOA's strength is its credibility," Crocker

told me. "You can't have global respect if you are going to act like every other authoritarian regime if the world sees us just like them."

So watch future developments on VOA, and renewal of foreign staff's visas as a symbol of how far Trump's media mania will take him. And whether he will try to turn VOA into a version of Russia's RT.

TRUMP

From Page 8

and in many cases not for the better. Like K-12 public schools, universities are trying to figure out a plan as the pandemic's realities continually shift. They want to open but they can't change the laws of safety and science simply because Trump and the reality of COVID-19 remain strangers.

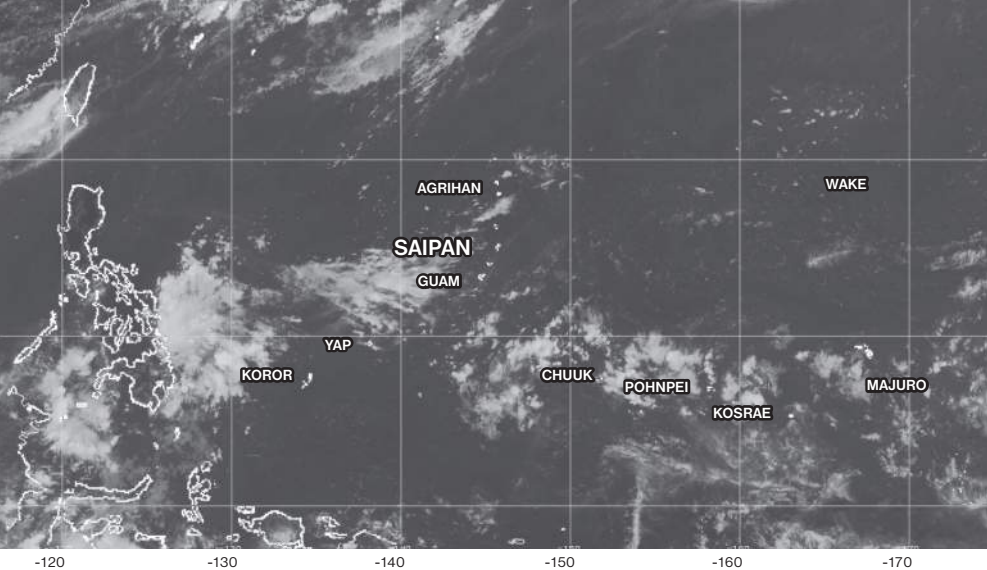
Had the students dropped out of their programs, our universities would have been drained of teaching assistants, graduate stu-

dents and the full-pay tuition that most international students contribute.

It's true that there long has been an issue with foreigners using bogus claims of college studies to immigrate while they took courses at sham schools. But the administration knew perfectly well that the students it targeted are here legitimately, contributing to our higher education system, to our economy and in many cases, to our global leadership in science and technology.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	
90°	78°	89°	79°	90°	79°	90°	79°	89°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:57 AM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters. Satellite indicates that the great majority of them are west of the islands moving away. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 5 feet, composed mainly of trade-wind swell from the east-northeast and a southeast swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/


STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors



CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Rain	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Showers	85° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Monday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:50 AM	2:50 PM	-
Friday	2:32 AM	3:43 PM	-
Saturday	3:19 AM	4:38 PM	-
Sunday	4:11 AM	5:35 PM	-
Monday	5:06 AM	6:31 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	59° / 54°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	84° / 70°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	90° / 84°	
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 75°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 63°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	78° / 63°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	93° / 81°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	59° / 45°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	78° / 70°	
Osaka	Thunderstorm	82° / 72°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 61°	
Busan	Sunny	77° / 66°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	86° / 70°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	94° / 74°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	82° / 54°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	86° / 70°	
Tokyo	Rain	73° / 70°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	91° / 75°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:14 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.90	
10:45 AM	LOW TIDE	0.38	
5:55 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.68	
10:30 PM	LOW TIDE	1.33	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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Business

Trendy hair color within reach

By **BEA CABRERA**

beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Mary's Beauty Shop 1 opened its doors in Garapan 12 years ago knowing that good grooming and beauty routines play an important part in every person's life. That's why in 2018, they opened another branch Mary's Beauty Shop 2 also located in Garapan.

They offer salon services for men and women like hair treatment, hair straightening, hair rebond, manicure, pedicure, foot spa to name a few; and Mary's Beauty Shop 1 is also the home of master colorist and senior hair stylist Rica Lozarito.

For the past five years, Lozarito's expertise in hair coloring has amazed regular and new customers. "I came from the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Master colorist and senior hair stylist Rica Lozarito with a satisfied customer.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mary's Beauty Shop 1 and 2 are located along Garapan St. in Garapan.

like family and give them free hair treatment when possible. We have the best and affordable rates on island and people come here to find rest and feel refreshed after a session is done," he said.

"Customers come to the salon to get their hair color and ask for my recommendations which they usually take and trust. I have learned humility and patience over the years because in this industry, you cannot please everybody... Customers give memorable comments and the best ones are the simple ones like when they sincerely say thank you for a job well done and refer me to their relatives and friends," he added.

Lozarito said Mary's Beauty Shop 1 and 2 adhere to health precautions such as sterilizing all equipment and sanitizing areas in the salon. "Wearing mask is important and we offer hand sanitizer right away to customers when they come in... we are open 10am to 8pm Monday to Sunday that's why we make sure that our salon is always clean and sanitized to take customers everyday," he said.

For more information, call Mary's Beauty Shop 1 and 2 at (670) 233-3366 and (670) 789-9165 or message them on Facebook or Instagram and type 'Rica Lozarito.'

Canada, US and Mexico poised to extend border restrictions

TORONTO (AP)—The U.S., Canada and Mexico are poised to extend their agreements to keep their shared borders closed to non-essential travel to Aug. 21, officials said Tuesday.

The agreements would extend the closures by another 30 days. A person familiar with the matter said final confirmation of the U.S., Canada agreement has yet occurred but is likely. The official was not authorized to speak publicly ahead of an announcement this week, and spoke on condition of anonymity. The restrictions were announced on March 18 and were extended in April, May and June.

Mexico's Foreign Affairs ministry said via Twitter Tuesday that "after reviewing the development of the spread of COVID-19" Mexico had proposed to the U.S. government that they extend the restrictions on ground travel at the U.S.-Mexico border for 30 more days.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said this week that a decision on the border would be announced later this week.

"We're going to continue to work hard to keep Canadians safe and to keep our economies flowing, and we will have more to say later," Trudeau said.

Mexican Foreign Affairs Secretary Marcelo Ebrard said on Friday that an opening between the U.S. and Mexico "wouldn't be prudent right now," given that coronavirus cases in "the states of the southern United States, California, New Mexico, Arizona and Texas, are on the rise."

Most Canadians fear a reopening. The U.S. has more confirmed cases and deaths from COVID-19 than any country in the world while Canada has flattened the epidemic curve.

"We've done a good job of flattening the curve. We have an average of about 300 cases per day. In the U.S. they have about 60,000 cases per day," said Dr. Howard Njoo, Canada's Deputy Chief Public Health Officer.

"Canadians have made tremendous sacrifices and we are seeing the fruits of our labor. We don't want to waste those efforts by reintroducing the virus in Canada," he said.

Philippines and have undergone extensive training from world class beauty experts. I was a member of Philippine International Cosmetologist Association headed by the legendary Mr. Fanny Serrano, trained by Rodell Bautista and June La Guardia who are all the go-to for style and beauty by celebrities," he said.

"I've been in the business of beauty and hair color for almost two decades and have worked in prestigious salons before coming here to Saipan. I continue to hone

my craft and expertise by continuously studying current trends backed up by work experience and good work ethics," he added.

During this time of the pan-

demic, Lozarito believes that salons have given the people in the community a place to find comfort and access to much needed self-care. "I also treat my regular customers

UK backtracks on giving Huawei role in high-speed network

LONDON (AP)—Britain on Tuesday backtracked on plans to give Chinese telecommunications company Huawei a role in the U.K.'s new high-speed mobile phone network amid security concerns fueled by rising tensions between Beijing and Western powers.

Britain said it decided to prohibit Huawei from working on the so-called 5G system after U.S. sanctions made it impossible to ensure the security of equipment made by the Chinese company.

The U.S. had also threatened to sever an intelligence-sharing arrangement with Britain because of concerns that Huawei's involvement could allow the Chinese government to infiltrate U.K. networks.

Culture Secretary Oliver

Dowden told Parliament the decision would delay the roll-out of 5G technology and increase costs by up to 2 billion pounds (\$2.5 billion), but that it had to be done.

"This has not been an easy decision, but it is the right one," he said.

The decision forces British telecoms operators to stop buying 5G equipment from Huawei by the end of this year but gives them until 2027 to remove Huawei gear that has already been used in the network, which is currently under construction.

Fifth generation, or 5G, networks are expected to usher in a new wave of wireless innovation, with super-fast speeds and low signal delay that will help the development of self-driving cars, remote surgery

and factory robots.

Critically for telecoms operators, the government opted not to order them to rip out equipment manufactured by Huawei and used in earlier systems, such as the existing 4G network. Such a decision might have caused havoc in U.K. telecoms systems.

Still, the decision marks a major retreat for Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who in January sought to balance economic and security pressures by agreeing to give Huawei a limited role in the 5G network. Under the earlier ruling, Huawei would have been limited to providing 35% of equipment such as radios and antennas, with the company barred from supplying core components of the system.

But the move set up a dip-

lomatic clash with the U.S., which is involved in a wide-ranging trade dispute with China and threatened to cut off security cooperation unless Britain dumped Huawei. Amid continued pressure to remove Huawei from communication networks entirely, the U.S. in May imposed new sanctions that will bar companies around the world from using American-made machinery or software to produce chips for the Chinese company.

U.S. officials claim that under Chinese law the government could force Huawei to give it access to foreign networks it has helped build. Huawei denies this, saying that countries such as Britain have already developed oversight procedures to ensure there are no security breaches.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

26,642.59
+556.79
2.13%

S&P

3,197.52
+42.30
1.34%

NASDAQ

10,488.58
+97.73
0.94%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.4287
British Pound	0.7954
Canadian Dollar	1.3600
Chinese Yuan	6.9057
Euro	0.8775

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7504
Indian Rupee	74.9243
Japanese Yen	107.2580
Malaysian Ringgit	4.2298
New Zealand Dollar	1.5259
Philippine Peso	48.6150

Russian Ruble	69.9196
Singapore Dollar	1.3907
South Korean Won	1177.56
Swiss Franc	0.9404
Taiwan Dollar	29.0004
Thailand Baht	31.5290

Nation

Trump administration rescinds rule on foreign students

BOSTON (AP)—Facing eight federal lawsuits and opposition from hundreds of universities, the Trump administration on Tuesday rescinded a rule that would have required international students to transfer or leave the country if their schools held classes entirely online because of the coronavirus pandemic.

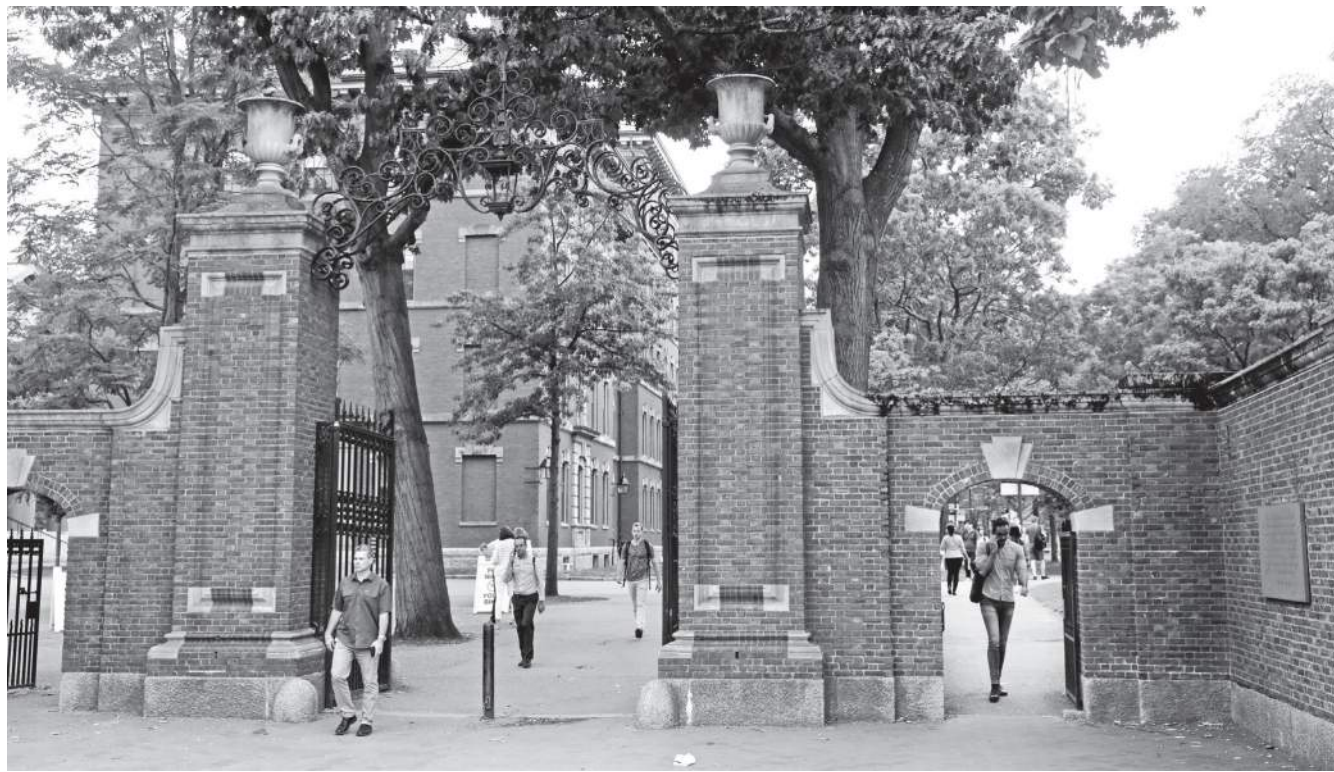
The decision was announced at the start of a hearing in a federal lawsuit in Boston brought by Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. U.S. District Judge Allison Burroughs said federal immigration authorities agreed to pull the July 6 directive and “return to the status quo.”

A lawyer representing the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said only that the judge’s characterization was correct.

The announcement brings relief to thousands of foreign students who had been at risk of being deported from the country, along with hundreds of universities that were scrambling to reassess their plans for the fall in light of the policy. With the policy rescinded, ICE will revert to a directive from March that suspended typical limits around online education for foreign students.

ICE did not immediately comment on the decision.

Harvard President Lawrence Bacow called it a “significant victory.”



In this Aug. 13, 2019, file photo, pedestrians walk through the gates of Harvard Yard at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. AP

“While the government may attempt to issue a new directive, our legal arguments remain strong and the Court has retained jurisdiction, which would allow us to seek judicial relief immediately to protect our international students should the government again act unlawfully,” Bacow said in a statement.

MIT’s president said his institution also stands ready “to protect our students from any further arbitrary policies.”

“This case also made abundantly clear that real lives are at stake in these matters, with the potential for real harm,” President L. Rafael Reif said

in a statement. “We need to approach policy making, especially now, with more humanity, more decency—not less.”

Under the policy, international students in the U.S. would have been forbidden from taking all their courses online this fall. New visas would not have been issued to students at schools planning to provide all classes online, which includes Harvard. Students already in the U.S. would have faced deportation if they didn’t transfer schools or leave the country voluntarily.

Even if an outbreak had forced colleges to move all their classes online during the

semester, international students would have been forced to transfer to a school with campus instruction or leave the country.

Immigration officials issued the policy last week, reversing the earlier guidance from March 13 telling colleges that limits around online education would be suspended during the pandemic. University leaders believed the rule was part of President Donald Trump’s effort to pressure the nation’s schools and colleges to reopen this fall even as new virus cases rise.

The policy drew sharp backlash from higher education in-

stitutions, with more than 200 signing court briefs supporting the challenge by Harvard and MIT. Colleges said the policy would put students’ safety at risk and hurt schools financially. Many schools rely on tuition from international students, and some stood to lose millions of dollars in revenue if the rule had taken hold.

Harvard and MIT were the first to contest the policy, but at least seven other federal suits had been filed by universities and states.

The unexpected decision was welcome news to students across the nation who had been on edge.

“I feel relief,” said Andrea Calderon, a 29-year-old biology graduate student from Ecuador. “It would have been a very big problem if I had to leave the country right now.”

The City College of New York student said returning home would have made it much harder to finish her thesis and pursue a Ph.D. Internet access at home in Ecuador is spotty, she said, and going through the process to come back to the U.S. in the future would be too expensive.

Rahul Lobo, 19, from Goa on the west coast of India, said he feels “an immeasurable amount of relief.”

“As it is, we’re living in very uncertain times, and the recent ICE policy just made things even more uncertain,” said Lobo, a rising junior at the University of Notre Dame. “Suddenly I wasn’t worrying about whether I could get back to campus, but more whether I would even be able to finish my degree in four years.”

The American Council on Education, which represents university presidents, applauded ICE’s pullback of the rule. The group called the policy “wrongheaded” and said it drew unprecedented opposition from colleges.

“There has never been a case where so many institutions sued the federal government,” said Terry Hartle, the group’s senior vice president. “In this case, the government didn’t even try to defend its policymaking.”

Florida virus deaths surge, vaccine research moves forward

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (AP)—Florida surpassed its daily record for coronavirus deaths Tuesday amid rising global worries of a resurgence, even as researchers announced that the first vaccine tested in the U.S. had worked to boost patients’ immune systems.

Florida’s 132 additional deaths topped a state mark set just last week. The figure likely includes deaths from the past weekend that had not been previously reported.

The new deaths raised the state’s seven-day average to 81 per day, more than double the figure of two weeks ago and now the second-highest in the United States behind Texas.

The worrisome figures were released just hours before the news about the experimental vaccine, developed by the National Institutes of Health and Moderna Inc.

“No matter how you slice this, this is good news,” Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government’s top infectious dis-

ease expert, told The Associated Press.

Key final testing of the vaccine will start around July 27, tracking 30,000 people to prove if the shots really work in preventing infection. Tuesday’s announcement focused on findings since March in 45 volunteers.

With the virus spreading quickly in the southern and western U.S., one of the country’s top public health officials offered conflicting theories about what is driving the outbreak.

“We tried to give states guidance on how to reopen safely. ...If you look critically, few states actually followed that guidance,” Dr. Robert Redfield, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Tuesday in a livestream interview with the editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Redfield said people in many states did not adopt social distancing and other measures because they hadn’t

previously experienced an outbreak. But he went on to say, without explanation, that he didn’t believe the way those states handled reopening was necessarily behind the explosive rise in virus cases. He offered a theory that infected travelers from elsewhere in the country might have brought the virus with them around Memorial Day.

CDC officials said that there are various possible explanations, and that Redfield was offering just one.

Doctors in Florida have predicted more deaths as daily reported cases have surged from about 2,000 a day a month ago to a daily average of about 11,000, including a record 15,000 on Sunday. The state recorded 9,194 new cases Tuesday.

Marlyn Hoilette, a nurse who spent four months working in the COVID-19 unit of her Florida hospital until testing positive recently, said hospitals are so desperate for staff to return to work they are not

following guidelines that call for two negative tests first.

“Nurses are getting sick, nursing assistants are getting sick and my biggest fear is that it seems we want to return folks to work even without a negative test,” said Hoilette, who works at Palms West Hospital in Loxahatchee, Florida. “It’s just a matter of time before you wipe the other staff out if you’re contagious, so that is a big problem.”

Word of the rising toll in Florida came as Arizona officials tallied 4,273 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19.

The state, which became a virus hot spot after Gov. Doug Ducey relaxed stay-at-home orders and other restrictions in May, reported 3,517 patients hospitalized because of the disease, a record high. Arizona’s death toll from COVID-19 rose to 2,337, with 92 additional deaths reported Tuesday.

Redfield urged Americans to wear masks to help contain the virus.

Navy: Progress on warship fire, but ship’s fate uncertain

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Marking significant progress, firefighters were able to move deeper inside the fire-engulfed USS Bonhomme Richard on Tuesday on their third day of battling the flames. But a top Navy official said it was too soon to say if the 23-year-old ship that is burning on opposite ends will be salvageable.

Navy officials were able to inspect four main engineering rooms and found no major damage, and the external structure of the ship appears to be safe, said Rear Adm. Philip Sobeck, the commander of the strike group whose flagship is the USS Bonhomme Richard.

But he cautioned at a briefing that there is still “a major fire inside” being fought by hundreds of sailors who were focusing their efforts on two isolated spots near the stern and the bow of the ship. It was unclear if there were

two distinct fires on board or if the area burning near the tail end was simply from the heat of a single large blaze, Sobeck said.

It’s also unclear whether the amphibious assault ship that is akin to a mini-aircraft carrier can still be repaired.

“We haven’t been inside the ship well enough to be able to get a full picture, and it’s just too early to tell,” Sobeck said.

The fire temperatures had reached up to 1,000 degrees (538 Celsius), causing the mast to collapse and threatening the central control island where the captain operates the vessel.

In other good signs of progress, the fire had moved away from the one million gallons (3.8 million liters) of fuel on board, easing the risk of an explosion or spill, though the military was still taking precautions if either worst-case scenario should occur, he said.

Asia

China accuses US of sowing discord in South China Sea

BEIJING (AP)—The Trump administration's rejection of broad Chinese claims to much of the South China Sea came across in Asia as an election-year political move, with some appealing for calm amid fears of greater tensions.

China accused the U.S. on Tuesday of trying to sow discord between China and the Southeast Asian countries with which it has long-standing territorial disputes in waters that are both a vital international shipping lane and home to valuable fisheries.

"The United States is not a country directly involved in the disputes. However, it has kept interfering in the issue," the Chinese Embassy in Washington said on its website. "Under the pretext of preserving stability, it is flexing muscles, stirring up tension and inciting confrontation in the region."

Other governments avoided direct comment on the U.S. announcement. The Philippine presidential spokesperson, Harry Roque, noted that the two powers would woo his country as they escalate their rivalry, but "what is important now is to prioritize the implementation and crafting of a code of conduct to prevent tension in that area."

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, in a statement released Monday, said the U.S. now regards virtually all Chinese maritime claims outside its internationally recognized waters to be illegitimate. The new position does not cover land features above sea level, which are considered to be "territorial" in nature.

77 dead in floods and landslides in India's Assam state

GAUHATI, India (AP)—Six more people have died in floods and mudslides in northeastern India's Assam state, officials said Tuesday, taking the death toll to 77 from more than two weeks of heavy rains that caused one of Asia's largest rivers to overflow.

The Brahmaputra River continued to wreak havoc, displacing more than 2 million people, the officials said. Vast tracts were still underwater with 26 of the state's 33 districts badly affected.

M.S. Mannivanan, head of the State Disaster Management Authority, said rescue and relief operations were underway.

"We have 40 teams of the State Disaster Response Force in the worst-hit areas and the army also is on standby," Mannivanan said.

The Brahmaputra River,

Previously, the U.S. had only insisted that maritime disputes between China and its smaller neighbors be resolved peacefully through U.N.-backed arbitration.

Pompeo's statement was a major shift in America's South China Sea policy, said Zhu Feng, the director of a South China Sea studies center at Nanjing University. He said other countries challenging China's claims may take a more aggressive stance because of America's openly stated support.

"The U.S. didn't use to comment on the sovereignty issue in the South China Sea, because it itself is not a claimant," Zhu said. "But this time it has made itself into a judge or arbiter. It will bring new instability and tension."

He advised against a strong response from China, saying that current U.S. policy is being driven in a significant way by President Donald Trump's reelection considerations.

"Trump's current China policy is insane," Zhu said. "He is making the China issue the most important topic for his election to cover his failure in preventing the epidemic and to divert public attention. I have no idea how far he will go in fully utilizing the China issue."

An Indonesian analyst agreed that the announcement was a political one to divert attention from Trump's weaknesses at home. A.A. Banyu Perwita, an international relations professor at President University, predicted it would focus more attention on the Indo-Pacific corridor but not have dramatic

consequences.

"It will be not more than a political diplomatic statement," he said, adding that "we need to make the atmosphere calm now. The best position for all now is the current status quo."

James Chin, head of the Asia Institute at the University of Tasmania in Australia, said the U.S. stance was nothing new because it has always rejected China's "nine-dash line," as its claim to the South China Sea is known.

"What is new is that Trump has sort of made the South China Sea a new focus point for his confrontation with China," he said.

Both Indonesia and the Philippines joined Pompeo in calling on China to abide by an international arbitration court ruling in 2016 that disqualified many of China's claims.

Malaysia's foreign ministry declined to comment.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian reiterated China's position that it has had effective jurisdiction over the islands, reefs and waters of the South China Sea for more than 1,000 years.

He said at a daily briefing Tuesday that China is not seeking to build a maritime empire.

China's emergence as a military power and its ambitions to extend its offshore reach have come into conflict with the U.S., which has been the dominant naval power in the western Pacific in the post-World War II period.

Two U.S. aircraft carriers drilled together in the South China Sea last week in a show of force.

was clutching her 2-year-old child. "We are passing days in misery with no relief coming our way from the government."

The floods also inundated most of Kaziranga National Park, home to rare one-horned rhinos, authorities said.

In the Pabitora wildlife sanctuary, 35 kilometers (21 miles) east of the state capital, Gauhati, an entire one-horned rhino population of over a hundred were taking shelter in artificially built highlands.

"The entire park is submerged with the rhinos moving to the highlands for shelter," park ranger Mukul Tamuly said by phone.

Annual monsoon rains hit the region in June-September. The rains are crucial for rain-fed crops planted during the season but often cause extensive damage.

World



In this July 26, 2019, file photo, Ethiopian migrants disembark from a boat onto the shores of Ras al-Ara, Lahj, Yemen. AP

UN: Migrants in Yemen blamed for virus, stranded, and abused

CAIRO (AP)—Over the course of Yemen's civil war, African migrants determined to reach oil-rich Saudi Arabia have endured unspeakable cruelties - torture, rape, detention, extortion - often perilously close to front lines.

Now, the coronavirus pandemic has dealt yet another blow to vulnerable migrants caught in Yemen's war zone.

Stigmatized as carriers of COVID-19, over 14,500 migrants, mostly Ethiopian, have been relentlessly hounded, rounded up and sent packing to different provinces, the U.N. migration agency reported on Tuesday. They remain stranded without adequate food, water or shelter.

"For nearly six years, Yemen has been an extremely unsafe place to be a migrant," Paul Dillon, spokesman for the International Organization for Migration

told reporters in Geneva. "COVID-19 has made this situation worse; migrants are scapegoated as carriers of the virus and as a result, suffer exclusion and violence."

Last year, over 138,000 migrants desperate to find jobs as housekeepers, servants and construction workers in Saudi Arabia embarked on the arduous journey from the Horn of Africa to Yemen, according to IOM. Ethiopians traverse hundreds of miles from their home villages through countries like Djibouti or Somalia, then across the sea and through war-torn Yemen. In many cases, migrants are at the mercy of smugglers who may imprison and torture them, leave them stranded on the route or sell them into virtual slave labor.

But this spring that traffic came to a grinding halt, as

countries closed their borders to contain the virus' spread. Movement restrictions curbed migrant arrivals in Yemen by 90%, IOM reported, while leaving the tens of thousands of Ethiopians in the country trapped in limbo.

With transportation between provinces at a standstill, thousands of migrants, blamed for spreading the virus, have been bussed from their makeshift homes and dumped in different provinces. At least 4,000 are stranded in the southern government-held city of Aden and 7,000 in the rebel stronghold of Saada, among other places, the IOM said.

The agency did not specify which authorities, whether Iran-allied rebel Houthis that control much of the country's north or Saudi-backed government forces, were responsible for the forcible transfers.

Thousands of protesting Israelis call for Netanyahu to resign

JERUSALEM (AP)—Thousands of Israelis on Tuesday demonstrated outside the official residence of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, calling on the embattled leader to resign as he faces a trial on corruption charges and grapples with a deepening coronavirus crisis.

Netanyahu has seen his popularity drop in recent weeks as he comes under criticism from a series of directions. A loose-knit movement has held a number of demonstrations saying that Netanyahu is unfit to lead at a time when he is on trial. Others have taken to the streets to protest a worsening economic crisis caused by the coronavirus.

The rowdy demonstration Tuesday evening was led by anti-corruption activists who refer to Netanyahu as the "crime minister." Many held posters, saying "You are detached. We are fed up," or saying there is "no way" a politician under indictment can be prime minister. Demonstrators, defying orders to maintain social distancing requirements, chanted slogans and blew horns outside the Netanyahu's home.

As the demonstrating was ending, there were small scuffles between police and some protesters. Late Tuesday, several hundred protesters marched through central Jerusalem, with some blocking the

city's light rail. Police said protesters threw stones and eggs and vandalized shops. Police said they forcibly dispersed the crowd and arrested eight suspects.

Netanyahu is currently on trial for a series of cases in which he allegedly received lavish gifts from billionaire friends and traded regulatory favors with media moguls for more favorable coverage of himself and his family. He denies wrongdoing and has doggedly refused to step down, lashing out at the media, the judiciary and law enforcement, which he says are engaged in a witch-hunt against him. Netanyahu's trial, which began in May, is scheduled to resume next week.

Environment

TNS

Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden speaks at the Chase Center July 14, 2020 in Wilmington, Delaware. Biden delivered remarks on his campaign's "Build Back Better" clean energy economic plan.



Joe Biden

sets out aggressive plan to tackle climate change

By EVAN HALPER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON—Joe Biden unveiled a proposal for rebuilding the economy Tuesday that focuses heavily on restoring American leadership in the fight against global warming, directing government recovery efforts toward expanding clean energy and rapidly reversing the Trump administration's abandonment of climate efforts.

In a speech in Wilmington, Delaware., the former vice president called for a massive green jobs and environmental justice program that would invest \$2 trillion in his first term on building new renewable energy infrastructure.

"Climate change is a challenge that's going to define our American future," Biden said. "I know meeting the challenge will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to jolt new life into our economy, strengthen our global leadership, protect our planet. ... We're not just going to tinker around the edges. We're going to make historic investments that will seize the opportunity to meet this moment in history."

The spending would go toward expansion of high-speed rail, building electric cars and greatly increasing the use of wind, solar and other renewable technologies to generate power, among other goals. Under Biden's plan, the U.S. would

fully end the use of oil, coal and other fossil fuels to generate electricity by 2035. He would bring the nation to net zero emissions of greenhouse gases no later than 2050.

The plan is notably more aggressive than the one Biden campaigned on during his party's primaries, part of an overall move in which he has embraced some of the proposals of his more progressive rivals in an effort to unify the party for the general election.

Nominees typically moderate their positions as they move into the general election. On climate, Biden is going in the opposite direction.

Compared to Biden's earlier proposals, the current one would spend more, do it faster and aim more investment toward disadvantaged communities.

"The science tells us there is no time for delay on climate change," the plan says. "Biden will make a \$2 trillion accelerated investment, with a plan to deploy those resources over his first term, setting us on an irreversible course to meet the ambitious climate progress that science demands."

Biden stressed the need to put policies in place that could not be unwound the way President Donald Trump has tried to reverse the Obama administration's climate plans.

"We're going to lock in progress that no future president can roll back or undercut to take us backward again," he said.

Republicans warned the

plan would further sink the economy and trigger the loss of millions more jobs. "Massive tax hikes are inevitable to pay for Biden's multi-trillion-dollar Green New Deal agenda," said a statement from Steve Guest, director of rapid response for the Republican National Committee. He said the proposal shows Biden is " beholden to left wing ideologues and not the American people who face the prospect of eliminated jobs and higher taxes under his plan."

Biden's increased assertiveness on climate comes as the former vice president has worked to build bridges with the progressive wing of the Democratic Party in the face of a pandemic that has left millions of Americans unemployed. The proposal is part of a broader economic plan Biden began unveiling last week, aimed at creating the largest public investment in American infrastructure since World War II.

Some key details, however, were absent from the proposal. Most notably, it does not specify how it would be paid for. Senior campaign officials said a rollback of the Trump tax cuts, as well as an increase in corporate taxes would be part of the payment plan, which the campaign vowed to release in the coming months.

Biden has also said he supports a carbon tax—a policy many environmental economists say is crucial to effective-

ly curbing climate change—but there is no mention of that in the current proposal.

Much of the plan would require congressional approval, which would prove a heavy lift even if Democrats win back control of the Senate.

Even so, the audacity of the spending plan reflects the increased appetite among voters for taking action to curb global warming, as scientists warn time is running short and Trump administration rollbacks have left America isolated from the global effort.

"When Donald Trump thinks about climate change, the only word he can muster is 'hoax,'" Biden said. "The word I think of is 'jobs.'"

The plan would quickly inject \$400 billion into the federal purchase of clean energy technologies with the goal of accelerating research development "on a scale well beyond the Apollo program."

It aims to create 1 million new auto industry jobs by pushing the industry—which has been resistant to change—to take the lead in electric-vehicle manufacturing. High-speed rail is a focal point of the plan, as is a big investment in zero-emission public transit.

The goal for quickly decarbonizing the power sector would require new subsidies such as tax credits and grants to accelerate production of solar and wind energy technologies.

The federal government

would also help subsidize the retrofit of 4 million buildings to make them more energy efficient and aim to create 250,000 jobs "plugging abandoned oil and natural gas wells and reclaiming abandoned coal, hardrock, and uranium mines."

Much of the money would be aimed at disadvantaged communities.

"We have to make sure that the first people who benefit from this are the people who were most hurt historically," Biden said.

His plan sets a goal that low-income communities that have traditionally suffered disproportionately from pollution would receive 40% of "overall benefits of spending" by the federal government in areas such as clean energy and energy efficiency, green transportation and sustainable housing.

Underpinning the plan is a restructuring of key agencies in the federal government, restoring the climate-forward focus put in place by the Obama administration but then abandoned by Trump.

The Justice Department, for example, would launch a new Environmental and Climate Justice Division "to hold polluters accountable."

"We're going to hold accountable those CEOs of corporations that benefit from decades of subsidies that just walked away from their responsibilities to these communities, leaving the wells to leak," Biden said.

Such an agency was championed by Gov. Jay Inslee of Washington, an early rival of Biden's in the presidential primary who ran on a platform dominated by confronting climate change. Biden adopted several of the ideas pushed by Inslee in his plan.

The plan also reflects parts of the agenda of another erstwhile rival, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, whose supporters agreed to work with the former vice president on policy compromises that would help unify the Democratic Party.

But some goals of progressives are notably absent from the plan. It does not include a ban on fracking, which many on the left are demanding but which some Biden advisers consider politically untenable in key states such as Pennsylvania. The plan also embraces nuclear energy as a viable zero-emission technology, even as many environmentalists are demanding closure of America's remaining nuclear plants.

The target of achieving "net zero emissions" by 2050 may also underwhelm activists who say such action is too little, too late. Polluters arguably could continue to emit large amounts of greenhouse gases even after the goal is reached by offsetting them with such activities as planting trees.

Sanders had demanded a far more rigid rule on curbing emissions, calling for "complete decarbonization" by 2050.

Life & Style

Jimmy Fallon, 'Tonight' show return to studio, sans audience

NEW YORK (AP)—The studio is largely empty, but Jimmy Fallon is out of his home and back to the “Tonight” show stage.

The NBC late-night host returned to NBC’s Rockefeller Center headquarters Monday, saying he hoped he could provide his audience with a little more “normal” during the coronavirus pandemic.

“I’m here to show you that there is a light at the end of the tunnel if we keep each other safe,” Fallon said.

Fallon, along with other late-night hosts, have been working remotely the past few months of months. The coronavirus pandemic shut-

down TV and film production in March for safety reasons. New York has slowly been reopening as other parts of the country are now feeling the full effects of the epidemic.

He began his show with a filmed piece showing him “walking” to work, pulling down his mask so a Rockefeller Center security guard knew he was indeed an employee.

His backup band, the Roots, were in place. Studio crew members wore face shields and masks. Everyone there had tested negative for COVID-19, he said. There was no audience.

Fallon was dressed more informally, with a sweater in-

stead of a suit.

“Normalcy, any type of normalcy, feels great,” he said. “So hopefully we can put a smile on your face an hour every night and let you sit back and relax while we try to bring you a little bit of normal.”

Guests, including New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Charlize Theron, weren’t in the studio as the celebrity interviews continued remotely.

Representatives for Stephen Colbert’s “Late Show” and Comedy Central’s “The Daily Show” with Trevor Noah both said plans were in the works to return to studios but put no timetable on it.



In this April 23, 2019 file photo, Jimmy Fallon attends the Time 100 Gala in New York. AP

Autopsy confirms Naya Rivera’s death was accidental drowning

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An autopsy confirmed Tuesday that “Glee” star Naya Rivera died from accidental drowning, officials said, while her family released a statement honoring her “everlasting legacy and magnetic spirit.”

The examination, performed the day after the 33-year-old’s body was found in a Southern California lake, showed no signs of traumatic injury or disease that might have contributed to the drowning, and gave no initial indication that drugs or alcohol may have played a role in her death, the Ventura County Medical Examiner said in a statement.

Dental records were used to confirm Rivera’s identity, and routine toxicology tests will be performed for the presence of drugs and alcohol, the statement said.

Rivera was found in Lake Piru on Monday, five days



Naya Rivera, a cast member in the television series “Glee,” poses at a screening and Q&A for the show, at the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in Los Angeles on May 1, 2012. AP

after she disappeared while boating with her 4-year-old son, who was found asleep and alone on the boat hours later. The autopsy’s findings were all consistent with the expectations of the Sheriff’s Office, which conducted the search and investigation.

Rivera’s family members released their first public state-

ment Tuesday since her disappearance, saying they are “so grateful for the outpouring of love and prayers for Naya, Josey and our family over the past week. While we grieve the loss of our beautiful legend, we are blessed to honor her everlasting legacy and magnetic spirit.”

The statement said Rivera was “an amazing talent, but was

an even greater person, mother, daughter and sister ... Heaven gained our sassy angel.”

The family thanked the search teams for their “commitment and unwavering effort to find Naya.”

The creators of “Glee” also released a statement in tribute to Rivera Tuesday, announcing that they would be creating a college fund for her son and remembering her as a joyful and immensely talented performer.

“Naya was more than just an actor on our show—she was our friend,” Ryan Murphy, Brad Falchuk and Ian Brennan said in a statement Tuesday.

“Our hearts go out to her family, especially her mom, Yolanda, who was a big part of the ‘Glee’ family, and her son Josey,” the three producers said, referring to the child as “the beautiful son Naya loved most of all.”

Michael B. Jordan wants you to view a drive-in movie, on him

NEW YORK (AP)—For Michael B. Jordan, timing is everything. So when the SAG award winner marched in a Los Angeles Black Lives Matter protest last month demanding that Hollywood drastically increase its diversity in the executive ranks, it was a moment he felt prepared for.

“I think it’s always been brewing in me, but I think timing is everything, you know? I mean, who knew that we was going to be in this pandemic? And on the heels of that, another senseless murder by law enforcement,” said the 33-year-old “Just Mercy” star. “I’ve always chosen to be very strategic in wanting to speak when

it really makes an impact and really matters... And I want to work and evolve and grow with people who feel that same sense of urgency.”

Jordan, whose breakout “Fruitvale Station” role followed the events of a young Black man killed by an Oakland transit police officer, channeled the urgency for change—and healing—into “A Night at the Drive-In.” The goal is to celebrate “multi-cultural and diverse voices in cinema, in hopes of ultimately bringing together communities.” Jordan and his Outlier Society production company—who hand-picked the movies—is partnering with Amazon Studios.

Man’s indecision puts his marriage on shaky ground

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my husband for 29 years, 25 of them married. We have had good times and bad, like most couples, but over the last four years, things have changed. We came to a place where we both needed to decide whether we wanted to continue in our marriage. We went to counseling, and I pursued my own personal growth, trying new things I was interested in and finding gratitude and happiness in my interests and career. My husband did the same thing.

Now I have moved past it, forgiven, told my husband I love him and hope he feels the same. You know what he said? He said he doesn’t know. He said he needs more time. Frankly, it has already been a long time, and it’s upsetting to have to wait for him to make up his mind.

If I become frustrated, he says I don’t have to stay and I’m free to do what I want. Trouble is, I want my husband, and I want him to want me back. What do I do? I take good care of myself and have a healthy sex drive. Sex happens rarely, and I end up being rejected more often than not. He also had an emotional affair with a woman he knows, but he thinks I made too much of it. That was about 18 months ago. Help, please.

— UNCOUPLING IN CANADA

DEAR UNCOUPLING: Going off and being independent may have been the wrong path to take. Your husband appears to have disconnected from you, both physically and

emotionally. When he went off and “tried things he was interested in,” among the things he tried may have been the woman with whom he had the affair.

If you continue waiting for your husband to make up his mind, you could be sitting in limbo for years. You take care of yourself, have a healthy sex drive and are entitled to a life. Now may be time to make one for yourself.

DEAR ABBY: For the past year my sister has been involved with a guy she went to high school with. He moved in with her and her 4-year-old son.

Before he moved in, my sister, my mom and I had a pretty decent relationship. Since this boyfriend has come into the picture, our relationship has become strained. He doesn’t work, doesn’t like her son, and she pays for everything (rent, food, car payments, etc.). Whatever he says, logical or not, she does it.

Recently, my nephew’s father reached out to me because she hasn’t let him see their son. When I asked my sister why, she had no reasonable explanation. I don’t know what to do at this point. She won’t even let the family see my nephew now. What should I do?

— MAD IN MARYLAND

DEAR MAD: Your sister’s boyfriend has succeeded in isolating her, and it is a very dangerous red flag. This is what abusers do, and you should worry not only about her, but

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

also her son, whom the boyfriend doesn’t like. Could they be hiding the child because he has bruises?

As to the father of the boy, if he has been contributing financially for his son, he may, with the help of a lawyer, be able to exert enough influence to get his visitation back. Please suggest it.

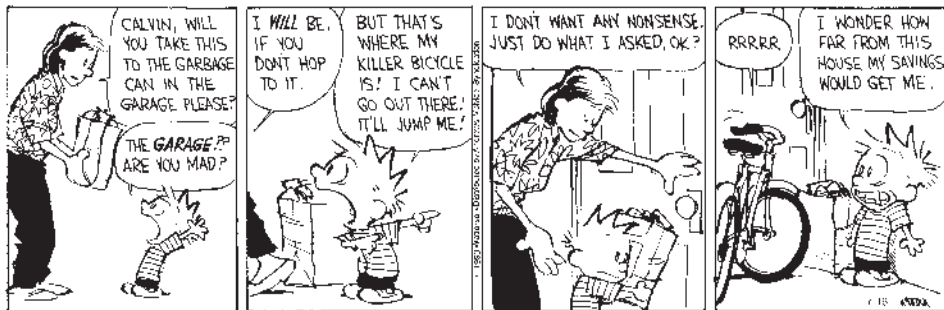
For now, all you can do is tell your sister you are concerned for her well-being because she is carrying the whole load. Tell her you are also concerned for the child and that no matter what, you love them both and will be there for them. She needs to hear it. And if necessary, contact child protective services.

To order “How to Write Letters for All Occasions,” send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

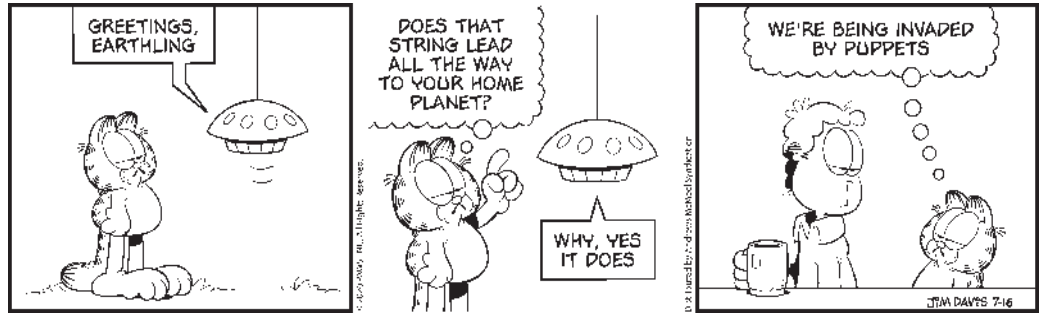
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



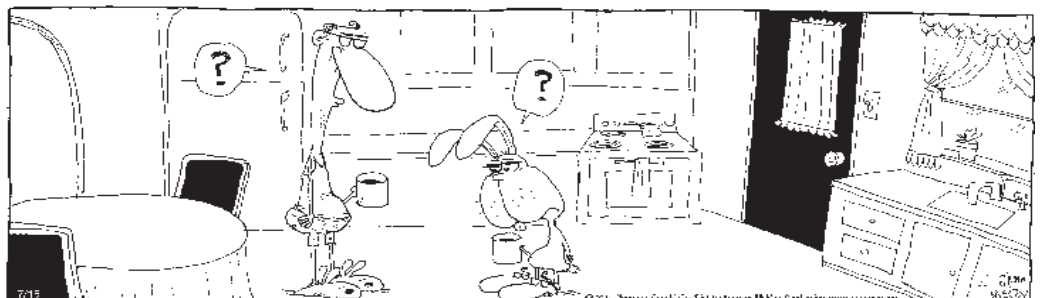
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

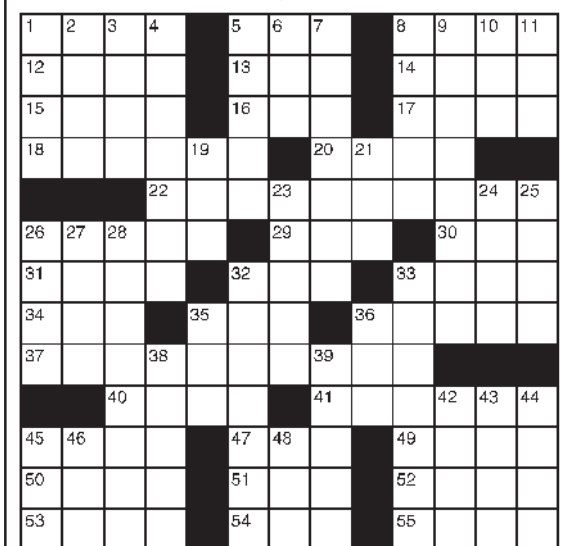
1 Wine valley
5 TV spots
8 Nile wader
12 Honolulu's isle
13 Docu-mentarian
14 Extended lunch?
15 Crossword diagram
16 "As I see it," to a texter
17 Flair
18 Do a film editor's job
20 Bakery buy
22 Off-stuffed vegetable
26 Kitchen gathering place
29 Succor
30 Sch. founded by Jefferson
31 Follow orders
32 "Alice" waitress

DOWN

33 Coin toss
34 Actor/director
35 Big D.C. lobby
36 Surveys
37 Church features
40 Actor
41 Help secure a loan
45 Lady of the haus
47 Eastern "way"
49 Not busy
50 Grime
51 Right angle
52 Cask sediment
53 Colonial flag maker
54 Conk out
55 Without
11 Junior
19 Middling grade
21 British ref. work
23 Susan
24 Wicked
25 Knocks
26 Mausoleum
27 Busy as —
28 Protec-tive glass cases
32 Led, as a band
33 Dinosaur remnants
35 Ultimate
36 Expert
38 Oafs
39 Paris school
42 Notion
43 Hidden valley
44 Loch — monster
45 New Deal pres.
46 Carnival city
48 Will Smith biopic

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-16



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Gareth Bale, 31; AnnaLynne McCord, 33; Corey Feldman, 49; Will Ferrell, 53.

Happy Birthday: Think about what you can do. How you direct your energy this year will make a difference to the outcome. Don't waste time living in the past or making up excuses for not living up to expectations. Opportunity is knocking; recognizing it is one thing, but taking advantage of it is another. Make your move. Your numbers are 9, 17, 24, 27, 31, 33, 40.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep busy. If you have too much time to think, you will end up feeling angry. Instead of stewing about a problem, look for a way to resolve issues that bother you. Offer alternatives and incentives, and be mindful of others. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A change will turn out to be beneficial. Make suggestions, and be a part of the unfolding of something new and exciting. A chance to make a positive change to the way you live or work is within reach. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put your energy where it counts. If you feel passionate about something, take action. Stand up for your beliefs, and make a difference. Don't let anger consume you. Be smart, come up with a workable solution and forge ahead. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Figure out what you want. Look around you, and consider what motivates you. Take the plunge, and do whatever it takes to bring you one step closer to your goal. A change will be a beautiful thing in hindsight. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Connect with someone through social media who will be able to help you with something you want to pursue. Call in favors, or be ready to offer an incentive. A kind gesture will lead to an exciting partnership. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep emotions in check, walk away from irrational people and finish what you start. Change begins within, so pursue what makes you happy. People in your life will offer exciting insight into the situation you face. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do something that brings you joy. Don't let those you live or work with disrupt your life. Know when to say no and when to walk away. An argument will leave you vulnerable, but pursuing something you enjoy will build confidence. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll learn plenty if you research or talk to someone who can provide you with firsthand information about something you want to pursue. Let your imagination wander, and you'll come up with a vision that tweaks your passion. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Let your passion lead the way. Whether you direct your energy into a cause you believe in, a relationship you cherish or doing whatever it takes to be the best that you can be, your dedication and drive will help you succeed. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll crave change today. Make arrangements to shake things up and do things differently. Put routine aside in order to focus on something that excites you, and you will come to realize a permanent adjustment is in order. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You need a pick-me-up. Do something that makes you feel good about yourself. Start a project, spend more time with your lover or do something that will challenge you emotionally, physically and intellectually. You've got what it takes to win. ★★★★★

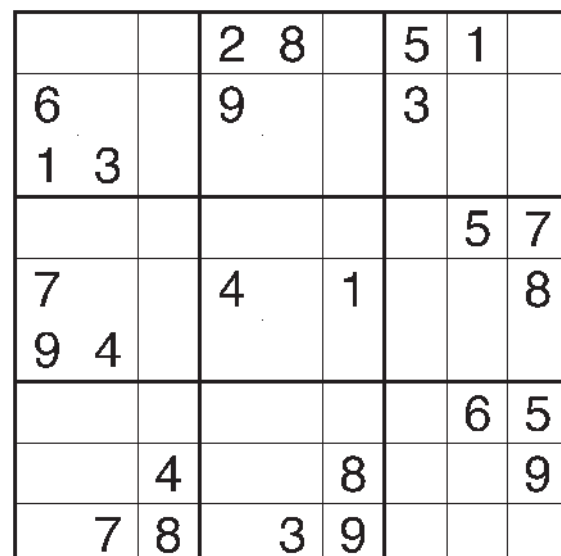
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Choose your words wisely when dealing with a friend, relative or lover. If you give someone the wrong impression, it will take a long time to reverse the message you send. Work on self-improvement, not trying to change others. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are reliable, astute and persistent. You are helpful and ambitious. Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



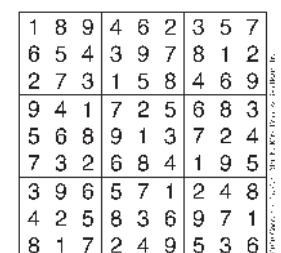
Difficulty Level ★★★

7/16

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ARE YOU A MATCHMAKER?

Solution: 10 letters



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Advice, Bond, Call, Career, Chemistry, Common, Companion, Compatible, Connect, Courtship, Culture, Cupid, Cute, Date, Dinner, Dream, Education, Emotion, Event, Interests, Introduce, Like, Location, Love, Marriage, Mate, Mutual, Network, Options, Personality, Profile, Real, Relationship, Romance, Similar, Social, Text, Travel, Values

Yesterday's Answer: Notification

The NEW Treasury 39 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Lakers, Clippers favored to meet in West finals



FLORIDA—For better or worse, the NBA is forging ahead with its plan to restart the 2019-20 season at the end of the month in Orlando, Florida. As teams report to Walt Disney World for training camp, we will dive deep into the big-picture basketball questions left to be answered between now and October.

You can count on one hand the number of players who have gone toe-to-toe with Los Angeles Lakers superstar LeBron James in the playoffs over the past 15 years. Only two of them will be on the court in the NBA's bubble, and they have joined forces on his chief Western Conference rival.

In 2013 and 2014, when James was at his peak, Paul George and Kawhi Leonard respectively played consecutive Eastern Conference finals and NBA Finals against the four-time MVP, finishing with a 12-13 record, including a pair of seven-game series. Nobody else but Kevin Durant has come so close over the past decade to unseating James as the game's most dominant two-way player.

Their matchups have delivered some of the most breathtaking basketball we have seen in recent memory, and with any luck they will give us another series with Anthony Davis thrown into the mix.

Actually, it feels less like luck and more like inevitability. According to FiveThirtyEight's projections, the Lakers and Clippers share 81 percent of the odds of winning the Western Conference finals. The Houston Rockets have a 13 percent chance, and no other team has better than a 3 percent shot.

Same goes for the casinos. The Lakers and Clippers are far and away the favorites to reach the conference finals, per BetMGM. Houston's long-shot odds are between three and four times as high as the two L.A. teams, and no other West team is given better than a 14-to-1 shot of making it.

Statistical analyses yield similar projections. The Lakers and Clippers are the only two teams in the West to rank in the top five in both offensive and defensive rating, generally a predictor of playoff success. The only other team with a net rating within three points per 100 possessions of either L.A. team is the seventh-place Dallas Mavericks, who since losing starting center Dwight Powell to a season-ending injury have dipped closer to a pack that also includes Houston, Utah and Denver.



In this Dec. 25, 2019 file photo, Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (23) and Los Angeles Clippers' Kawhi Leonard (2) fight for the ball during an NBA game in Los Angeles.

Of the stars left standing in the West, only six have been a conference finalist's best player since 2010: James, Leonard, George, James Harden, Damian Lillard and Dwight Howard. Four play for the Lakers and Clippers, and Lillard is not currently in the playoffs. Conceding that the current Lakers version of Howard is no longer playing at an All-NBA level, the addition of Davis alongside James further illustrates why the odds are so heavily in favor of the two L.A. teams. Stars advance.

It is hard to imagine any West team other than the Rockets matching their star power, especially since the Jazz lost second-leading scorer Bojan Bogdanovic to injury, and Russell Westbrook hardly complements Harden the way more versatile Lakers and Clippers duos do on both ends of the floor. Houston looms as a greater threat to the Lakers than the Clippers, if only because the former lost two of its hardest-hitting backcourt counterpunches, Avery Bradley and Rajon Rondo, and the latter is better equipped to beat the Rockets at their own small-ball game, if it comes down to matchups.

But there is nobody outside Houston picking Harden and Westbrook over James and Davis, and I'm not sure number-crunching Rockets general manager Daryl Morey would make that bet if he could. Same goes for the Nuggets, who are next in line to be the fourth West semifinalist, barring a 3-6 matchup

with Houston. Are you taking Nikola Jokic and Jamal Murray over Leonard and George?

Let us dispense with the long odds against the two L.A. teams meeting for a moment and get to the real question: Who wins in a matchup of the two? It is easy to take James, arguably the second-greatest player in the history of the game, whose string of eight straight Finals appearances ended in injury last season. He

has never had an in-his-prime partner quite like Davis, and the hodgepodge of veterans that Lakers GM Rob Pelinka put around them this season meshed better than expected, even if two members of their anticipated playoff rotation are unavailable. They are Vegas favorites.

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number-crunching Rockets general manager Daryl Morey would make that bet if he could. Same goes for the Nuggets, who are next in line to be the fourth West semifinalist, barring a 3-6 matchup with Houston. Are you taking Nikola Jokic and Jamal Murray over Leonard and George?

We can break this down into even simpler terms. Statistically speaking, the Clippers have no holes defensively, and

the Lakers are vulnerable both in the corners and the mid-range. The Lakers are better at scoring in the restricted area, and the Clips shoot better everywhere else. There is a world where dominating the rim results in four wins, but when every playoff bucket is harder to come by, I would wager on the more skilled team, regardless of what projections and oddsmakers might say. *(NBC)*

Jokic, Harden finally join bubble

ORLANDO—Nikola Jokic has arrived.

After being delayed by a COVID-19 infection and then travel complications, the Denver Nuggets' All-NBA center is inside the NBA bubble at Disney World.

Jokic was initially scheduled to join his teammates in Denver from his native Serbia last month before the report of his coronavirus infection. The Nuggets arrived inside the bubble last week without their best player.

James Harden finally made his appearance, too.

Harden did not join the Houston Rockets when they arrived at Disney World last week, though coach Mike D'Antoni didn't provide an explanation. Fellow star Russell Westbrook announced on Monday that he had tested positive for the coronavirus, too, adding to the speculation surrounding Harden's absence.

Harden, though, arrived on

Tuesday night.

The Denver Post reported that Jokic has passed the NBA's 48-hour quarantine but hasn't been cleared physically to practice yet. He'll need to undergo testing by the team before joining the Nuggets on the practice court, according to the report.

As of Monday, the Nuggets were still shorthanded in Orlando regardless of Jokic's status. Sources said that Gary Harris, Michael Porter Jr. and Torrey Craig had not yet arrived.

Jokic's arrival is, of course, good news for Denver. Jokic followed up his All-NBA season with averages of 20.2 points, 10.2 rebounds and 6.9 assists before the NBA's COVID-19 hiatus. He's showing up to Disney World significantly lighter than he was in April and will be one of the stories to watch as the third-place Nuggets look to upend the Los Angeles Lakers and Clippers in the Western Conference.

Meanwhile, Harrison Barnes of the Sacramento Kings became the latest NBA player to reveal that he has the coronavirus, making the announcement Tuesday and saying he has hopes to join his team for the league's restart later this summer.

Barnes is the only player who has started all 64 of the Kings' games this season. To extend that streak, he'll need to be cleared and arrive at Walt Disney World before Sacramento's season resumes with the first of its eight seeding games on July 31 against San Antonio.

"Prior to the team leaving last week, I tested positive for Covid-19. I've been primarily asymptomatic and am doing well. I'm quarantined and am abiding by the safety protocol until I'm cleared for action. I hope to join my team in Orlando when it is safe to do so! Stay safe out there," Barnes said.

Barnes is averaging 14.7

points this season for the Kings.

The league said Monday that 19 players tested positive during in-market testing after July 1, those tests being done before teams began arriving at Disney on July 7. Based on the timetable Barnes used in his message, it's likely that he was one of those 19 players in the NBA's latest count.

The Kings have gotten Buddy Hield and Jabari Parker back after each had positive tests. Alex Len, however, remains out after his positive test, and now Barnes is in that situation as well.

"We have to prepare as if we're not going to have either one of those guys," Sacramento coach Luke Walton said. "That's just getting ready for whatever the worst-case scenario may be."

Many players have chosen to not make their diagnosis public, including two players who tested positive after arriving at Disney last week—but never got out of quarantine and into the NBA's so-called bubble. *(AP/NBC)*

Puig picks Braves, Glasnow returns to Rays



NEW YORK

(AP)—Opening day rosters gained clarity on Tuesday when the Atlanta Braves reached an agreement with Yasiel Puig, and Tampa Bay pitcher Tyler Glasnow provided hopes for teams awaiting players to be cleared following positive tests for the coronavirus.

Puig agreed to a one-year deal pending a physical, a person with knowledge of the agreement told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the agreement is not official until Puig passes the physical.

The 29-year-old Puig, who began his career with the Los Angeles Dodgers, hit a combined .267 with 24 homers and 84 RBI for Cincinnati and Cleveland in 2019. He also stole 19 bases.

Puig was the last big-name free agent from the offseason who had not signed with a team. He helps the Braves fill a void left when Nick Markakis opted out for the season.

Manager Brian Snitker has named Mike Soroka, 22, the Braves' youngest opening day starter in the modern era. The Braves open at the New York Mets on July 24.

"It's something that you dream about as a kid," Soroka said.

The right-hander was 13-4 with a 2.68 ERA in 2019.

Max Fried, Mike Foltynewicz and Sean Newcomb are expected to follow Soroka in the rotation as Cole Hamels' recovery from a sore shoulder was slowed by triceps tendinitis.

Glasnow rejoined the Rays after missing the first 11 days of summer camp following his positive test. The right-hander immediately jumped into a simulated game at Tropicana Field and threw 49 pitches over 3 1/3 innings.

Glasnow said he felt fine and expects to be ready to begin the 60-game season on time.

Outside of briefly losing his sense of taste and smell, the 26-year-old Glasnow said he didn't experience any noticeable symptoms of COVID-19.

"I had maybe really mild cold symptoms for maybe a day," Glasnow said, wearing a mask during a Zoom call. "If this wasn't going on, I probably wouldn't have known I was sick."

The pitcher said he quarantined for 14 days inside his apartment in St. Petersburg, Florida. After that, he was able to work out alone, throwing into a net when he was able to find an empty park in the area.

"It would always be at a



AP
In this Sept. 26, 2019 file photo, Cleveland Indians right fielder Yasiel Puig (66) can't catch a hit by Chicago White Sox's Jose Abreu during the fifth inning of a baseball game in Chicago.

family. My wife is pregnant, so I don't want (anything) to happen to her. I don't want (anything) to happen to my kids. So, we're going to take all the precautions we need in order to stay safe and keep ourselves safe."

Meanwhile, Milwaukee outfielder Avisail Garcia and catcher Omar Narvaez drafted teams for this week's "Blue & Gold World Series" games.

The surprise? Christian Yelich, who won the NL MVP in 2018 and was second in the balloting last year, didn't get picked first. Garcia went with Ryan Braun instead.

"I want to compete against the best," Garcia said, explaining why he didn't pick Yelich.

The strategy didn't last long. Garcia's team then traded Braun and shortstop Orlando Arcia for Yelich and infielder Eric Sogard.

weird time of the day, and it had to be nobody there," Glasnow said. "If there was anybody there, I would just leave."

Glasnow, Charlie Morton and 2018 AL Cy Young Award winner Blake Snell lead a rotation that has the potential to be among the best in baseball. Glasnow was 6-1 with a 1.78 ERA in 12 starts last season.

Mets second baseman Robinson Cano also returned to camp after missing five straight workouts for undisclosed reasons. The 37-year-old Cano was scheduled to participate in practice, but not the intrasquad game at night.

"We'll go day by day. I mean, he looks great. He's in great shape," manager Luis Rojas said.

Mets relief pitchers Brad Brach and Jared Hughes remained absent.

Also returning was Orioles outfielder Anthony Santander, whose late arrival might have been attributed to COVID-19 testing. The team has not provided an explanation.

Santander, who hit 20 home runs last year, is a projected starter. The short-handed outfield is without slugger Trey Mancini, who had colon cancer surgery in March. Dwight Smith Jr. has not yet reported, for reasons not disclosed by the Orioles.

Springer held out

Houston outfielder George Springer missed practice be-

cause of a delay in receiving his coronavirus test results, the latest in a series of testing snafus for the Astros.

They were forced to cancel their practice on July 6 because the Fourth of July holiday delayed test results. Third baseman Alex Bregman was held out of practice last week because he hadn't received his test results.

Manager Dusty Baker said he understands Major League Baseball is trying to work the kinks out of the new system. Baker said he hopes things get figured out soon so no players are forced to miss games because of testing delays.

Injury updates

Minnesota Twins center fielder Byron Buxton has a sprained left foot and is day to day. He got hurt chasing a fly ball Monday night.

Texas Rangers catcher Robinson Chirinos could miss the start of the season because of an injured right ankle sustained in an intrasquad game Monday night. Left fielder Willie Calhoun also left that game early, after feeling tightness in his right hip flexor.

"He is still tender today. If you talk to him, he doesn't think he'll be out that long. We believe there is a strain in there," manager Chris Woodward said.

Calhoun suffered a broken jaw when he was hit by a fastball in a spring training game March 8. He has recovered

from that.

Seattle placed right-hander Yoshihisa Hirano on the injured list without providing a reason. Hirano, who was 5-5 with one save and a 4.75 ERA in 62 relief appearances for Arizona last season, has not appeared in summer camp.

In Washington, Nationals hitting coach Kevin Long was cleared to participate and made his camp debut in an intrasquad game. In the game, the Nationals prepared for the new extra-inning rule by having a runner start out a half-inning on second base.

In Miami, Marlins catcher Francisco Cervelli said "everybody is concerned" about the virus outbreak in South Florida.

"I don't want to have this virus, or anyone on my team," Cervelli said. "We just have to be careful. We don't know what's going to happen. Every day here Miami is getting crazy. I'm a little scared, yes, but we're here to play baseball."

In Chicago, White Sox catcher Yasmani Grandal is concerned about being unable to maintain proper social distancing behind the plate.

"I'd be lying to you if I said I wasn't worried about it," Grandal said. "Obviously, this is something you've got to take very serious because it can spread out as fast as anything. In my case, this is not only for my health and the health of my teammates, but it's also for the health of my

Woods remains mum on Ryder Cup captaincy in 2023

DUBLIN, Ohio—Speaking for the first time since the PGA of America announced the Ryder Cup would be postponed until next year, Tiger Woods was asked his thoughts on the move and, more pressing, on if that aligns him to be the U.S. captain in 2023 when the matches are scheduled to be played in Italy.

"As far as captaining, we haven't looked that far," smiled Woods, who was a playing captain at last year's Presidents Cup. "I did my captaincy last year, and it was a lot of work, and I'm sure that I'll look into that in the future."

As for the PGA's decision to push the matches back a year, Woods was in agreement with most of the game's top players.

"We couldn't have an environment in which we could protect all the fans that were going to be involved and have that type of insurance. Obviously if that's the case, you can't have the fans," Woods said. "Well, if you can't have the fans, then it's not the Ryder Cup."

The '23 matches would be played a few months before Woods' 48th birthday and would appear to be a likely

landing spot for the 15-time major winner's first Ryder Cup captaincy.

Meanwhile, Woods admitted Tuesday that concern over the coronavirus delayed his return to the PGA Tour as he prepares to play his first event since February at this week's Memorial Tournament in Ohio.

The former world No. 1 has not played since appearing in the Genesis Invitational in Los Angeles in February but will tee off at Muirfield on Thursday chasing a sixth victory in the Jack Nicklaus-hosted event.

The 44-year-old 15-time major winner said Tuesday he had contemplated returning to the tour earlier but had wanted to see how the first few events of the post-coronavirus shutdown fared before coming back.

"I just felt it was better to stay at home and be safe," Woods said Tuesday.

"I'm used to playing with lots of people around me or having lots of people have a direct line to me, and that puts not only myself in danger but my friends and family, and just been at home practicing and social distancing and being away from a lot of people." (NBC/AP)



Chiefs on spending spree, sign Jones to \$85M deal



KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs and Pro Bowl defensive

tackle Chris Jones agreed to a four-year contract that could be worth up to \$85 million on Tuesday, the latest in a lavish spending spree by the Super Bowl champions as they continue to lock up their core pieces as training camp approaches.

The deal for Jones, which comes on the heels of a record-setting 10-year extension for quarterback Patrick Mahomes, includes \$60 million in guarantees, a person familiar with the terms told The Associated Press. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the Chiefs had not announced the extension.

The two sides had been working on an extension since last year. But they were never very close, even when Jones showed his displeasure by skipping the entirety of the offseason program—including the mandatory summer minicamp.

Jones returned in time for training camp, though, and his unique ability to rush the passer from the interior of the defensive line was instrumental in helping Kansas City beat the San Francisco 49ers to win its first Super Bowl in 50 years.



Jones said afterward that he wanted to help the Chiefs establish a dynasty, but the euphoria of that victory in Miami soon wore off. Contract negotiations continued to stall and the Chiefs had to buy time by placing the franchise tag on Jones, and establishing a deadline of Wednesday for working out a deal.

And once the contract with Mahomes was done, the Chiefs had a better idea of their salary cap situation and that allowed negotiations with Jones' representatives to pick up.

"Listen, I think (general manager) Brett Veach has done a nice job of getting and

retaining our players," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said recently, "and that's not an easy thing to do with the way the salary cap is set up in today's world."

The length of Jones' contract works out for the Chiefs in that it expires before the big-money years begin for Mahomes, whose baseball-like contract could surpass \$500 million total over the 12 years that he is under contract.

Jones certainly has earned his own impressive financial haul during his first four seasons in the league.

The second-round pick in the 2016 draft started 11 games and had two sacks as a rookie, then bumped that total

to 6 1/2 sacks in Year 2. But it was the 15 1/2 sacks that he piled up while helping the Chiefs to the AFC title game in 2018 that really raised eyebrows, and put the Chiefs in the position of trying to hammer out a long-term contract for him.

Jones had another nine sacks last year despite missing three games with injuries, putting himself in an elite tier of interior pass rushers that includes Rams standout Aaron Donald and the Eagles' Fletcher Cox.

Jones hinted several weeks ago about holding out all season if the sides were unable to agree to a long-term deal. But his posts on social media

In this file photo, Chris Jones, left, of the Kansas City Chiefs sacks Case Keenum of the Denver Broncos during the third quarter of the NFL game at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri.

over the past week had grown increasingly optimistic, and tweets over the weekend that said "I love you KC" and "vibes are unmatched" were taken by some as a sign that an extension was close.

"Got my boi locked up!" Mahomes tweeted Tuesday, when news of the deal broke. Mahomes then alluded to the fact few thought it would get done given the Chiefs' tight financial situation when he tweeted, "And yall thought we couldn't..."

Browns, Garrett closing in on extension

In Cleveland, the Browns are closing in on a contract extension with star defensive end Myles Garrett, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Garrett, the No. 1 overall pick in 2017 and one of the NFL's top edge rushers, and the team could have the deal completed in the next day or so, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks.

NFL Network reported

the extension could be for five years and \$125 million, which would make Garrett the league's highest-paid defensive player. The Browns have been discussing the extension with Garrett and his representatives for months.

The Browns have been eager to lock up Garrett to a long-term deal. The team views him as one of the franchise's cornerstone players who has only begun to reach his potential.

Garrett has recorded 30 1/2 career sacks in 37 games for Cleveland. He had 10 sacks in 10 games last season and was on his way to making another Pro Bowl when he was suspended by the league for the final six games after he pulled off Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph's helmet and struck him in the head with it.

Commissioner Roger Goodell reinstated Garrett in February after meeting with the 24-year-old in New York.

The Browns felt the helmet-swinging skirmish was out of character for Garrett, who said he reacted violently because Rudolph had used a racial slur.

Garrett entered this offseason with two years left on his rookie contract after Cleveland picked up his fifth-year option.

Chicago linebacker Khalil Mack is currently the highest-paid defensive player, averaging \$23 million per season.

NMI

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Domingo, Hunter Jewell, Enrico Del Rosario, and Jireh Yobech and coach Jerish Angeles in *Footcast with Norman* last Saturday.

For Domingo, who is also in the U.S. Marine Corps, the losses that piled up (versus

Chinese-Taipei, 0-18; against Hong Kong, 0-15; opposite Korea, 0-22; and over Guam, 0-3, plus the training games against Japanese teams) before they defeated Macau made him realize he can beat self-frustration by playing better and believing in himself.

"I was so frustrated with how bad I've been playing. But

then after that, I told myself I am better than what I think. I can do it and will push harder. A lot of us, we decide our own path, chase our ambitions and continue our pursuit no matter what," Domingo said.

Yobech echoed Domingo's thoughts, saying you should never have self-doubt.

"I was doubting myself if I



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI Boys U15 National Team's starters gather for a photo before their game against Macau in the 2011 East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament in Chinese-Taipei.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI players enjoy a light moment on the bench before playing against North Korea.

will be able to compete after those losses so before the Macau game, I was so pretty nervous. I was even discouraged by my own game," Yobech said.

However, after the pep talk with head coach Kiyoshi Sekiguchi and how he kept his faith on the team and the hard work they put in before the tournament, Yobech regained his confidence and proved himself wrong.

Izuka, who admitted re-

sponsibility for conceding the goal to Macau, said that match along with the other games they played with the CNMI national team, win or lose, is also about trying.

"We can and we could if we try," said Izuka, who is now in California to finish his college degree.

Meanwhile, Angeles saw the victory over Macau as a sign to continue what he started.

"I did not stop coaching.

The win made me feel that I can do more and help develop the grassroots program. This team (first win in any international tournament for the CNMI) started it all, its victory gave us hope and we will hold on to that, we will continue our progress," said Angeles, who now assists Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director and CNMI Men's National Team head coach Michiteru Mita.



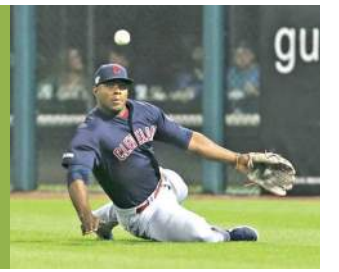
Lakers, Clippers
favored to meet
in West finals

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MBC this year unlikely



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 4th Micronesian Baseball Classic is unlikely to be held this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Saipan Baseball League official Tony Rogolifoi said that this year's MBC was supposed to take place this month in Pohnpei, but obviously the competition had to be postponed with COVID-19 still a threat in the region.



Rogolifoi added that MBC may not be held this year due to the uncertainties that the pandemic has created and they have to discuss the new schedule with the participating countries and the Baseball Confederation Oceania, which oversees competition for 14 nations, including the CNMI, Palau, Guam, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

The inaugural MBC took place on Saipan in 2016 with the CNMI All-Stars pulling off a thrilling 15-14 victory over Guam after an extra inning.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In this 2016 file photo, the CNMI's Peter Lieto delivers a pitch during the top of the seventh inning of their game against Guam in the Inaugural Micronesian Baseball Classic at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Then in 2017, Palau was slated to host the second edition of the regional tournament, but Guam had to step in, as the former had issues with its facilities. Guam went on to take the 2017 crown after dominating Palau in the finals, 11-1, and the former made it back-to-back after topping the CNMI in the title game of the third MBC, 8-3, held early this year.

No MBC was held in 2018 because teams competed in the Micronesian Games in Yap, while the third edition was originally slated for Oct. 2019, but was moved to January this year due to scheduling challenges among the participating teams.

Meanwhile, Rogolifoi said that local baseball will continue to be on a wait-and-see mode.

"We will wait until the government says it's all clear. Baseball is a team and contact

sports so we don't want to put our players and officials at risk. As soon as we get clearance from authorities, we will make plans and announcements regarding tournaments and other activities," Rogolifoi said.

He added that they will get in touch with World Baseball Softball Confederation and Baseball Confederation Oceania for guidelines on resumption of games once this pandemic is over.

"I know people are excited to get back to the field, but we need to stay put for everyone's safety," the SBL official added.

The last time CNMI players swung their bats was late January when the Commonwealth bets saw action in the World Baseball Softball Confederation 15-Under Oceania Qualifier in Guam. The visiting squad lost all its six matches, bowing to Guam and New Zealand.

NMI players, coach recount lessons learned

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

On top of their historic feat,

CNMI players were grateful for the lessons they learned after the celebrated 2-1 victory over Macau in the 2011

East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament in Chinese-Taipei.

Billy Hinson said that these

lessons proved to be valuable until now that they are building their career path.

"That game and that win

taught me a lot about trust. You've got to trust the guy next to you. I am in the U.S. Marine Corps now and I've got to trust the people to my left and right. They will

keep me alive, they will help me," said Hinson, as he joined teammates Jehn Joyner, Kennedy Izuka, Kenneth

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players and officials of the CNMI Boys U15 National Team pose for a photo after beating Macau, 2-1, in the 2011 East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament in Chinese-Taipei.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jake Lee leads the CNMI's attack in their game against Chinese-Taipei, while Jireh Yobech, right, tries to catch up.